



Medical association blasts military's transgender policy

By JULIE WATSON and DAV-
ID CRARY

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A Trump administration regulation set to go into effect Friday bars transgender people from the military unless they "correct those deficiencies," a description the American Medical Association said Thursday is unfair and defies science. The AMA told The Associated Press on Thursday the policy and its wording mischaracterizes transgender people as having a "deficiency." It said it also objects to the Defense Department classifying the need to transition to another gender among "administratively disqualifying conditions" that include those the Pentagon has labeled as "congenital or develop-

mental defects."

The new regulation strips transgender troops of rights they only recently secured under the Obama administration to serve openly and receive care if they choose to transition to another gender.

The Defense Department said its use of the words "deficiencies" is military lingo for when an individual fails to meet standards to maintain a lethal force. It is not a reference to gender dysphoria, a condition of extreme distress from not identifying with one's biological gender, Lt. Col. Carla Gleason said.

The department says transgender people can serve if they remain in their biological sex.

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In this Feb. 27, 2019 file photo, Army Staff Sgt. Patricia King, second from right, together with other transgender military members, from left, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Blake Dremann, Army Capt. Alivia Stehlik, Army Capt. Jennifer Peace and Navy Petty Officer Third Class Akira Wyatt, testify about their military service before a House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. Associated Press

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TRANSGENDER

Continued from Front

"The only thing deficient is any medical science behind this decision," American Medical Association President Dr. Barbara L. McAneny said.

Decorated Army helicopter pilot Lindsey Muller was a plaintiff in one of four lawsuits that tried to block the policy from taking effect. But the final legal injunction was lifted in March, though new legal challenges are expected.

Muller said she and other transgender troops feel demoralized.

"Under our ethical standards, we can't say anything derogatory against the administration, while we are being presented in a disparaging and derogatory light," said Muller, 37, who is based in Fort Carson, Colorado.

Troops like Muller, who began openly identifying as a woman in 2016, are worried they will be discharged. The administration says it



This undated file photo provided by her wife Jessica Kibodeaux shows Lindsey Muller and her dog Emma, hiking in the Cheyenne Mountains west of Fort Carson, Colo.

Associated Press

will not boot current service members who transitioned before the Pentagon issued its directive, though the government has also said it retains the right to eliminate that protection. Muller said the policy will cost the armed forces far more in terms of losing experienced personnel like herself and training replacements than any costs associated with specialized

health care for trans servicemembers. She plans to retire from the military next year after serving 20 years. Under the new policy, a service member can be discharged based on a diagnosis of gender dysphoria if he or she is "unable or unwilling to adhere to all applicable standards, including the standards associated with his or her biological sex, or seeks transi-

tion to another gender."

It said the discharge should come after an individual "has been formally counseled on his or her failure to adhere to such standards and has been given an opportunity to correct those deficiencies."

The policy calls for troops diagnosed with gender dysphoria to be medically evaluated before discharging them to see if they qualify as having a disability. Otherwise gender dysphoria can be considered a "condition that interferes with military service" like sleep walking, bed wetting, motion sickness, and personality disorders.

"They can dress it up in whatever words they want, but when you carefully look at this it's total disrespect for these human beings by saying a core piece of them is not acceptable," former acting U.S. Army Surgeon General Gale Pollock said.

Pollock signed a statement with three former U.S. sur-

geons general and two former military surgeons general, saying they are "troubled by the Defense Department's characterization of the need to undergo gender transition as a 'deficiency,' and by the addition of gender dysphoria to official lists of 'congenital or developmental defects' that include bed-wetting and 'disturbances of perception, thinking, emotional control, or behavior.'"

An estimated 14,700 troops identify as transgender.

Military chiefs testified before Congress last year that they found no problems with transgender troops on morale or unit cohesion. Many have received medals since the armed forces welcomed them in 2016.

Transgender troops say the regulation mirrors the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that prohibited gay men and women from serving openly in the armed forces before Congress repealed it in 2010. □

Susan Rice says she won't challenge GOP Sen. Collins in 2020

NEW YORK (AP) — Susan Rice, who served as national security adviser under

President Barack Obama, won't be challenging Republican Sen. Susan Collins

of Maine in 2020.

Rice told former Obama administration official Alys-

for Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. She said Collins supporting Kavana-

the course of weighing it all, I've decided that with my family that the timing really isn't right for us."

However, Rice did not rule out a run in the future "in Maine or beyond," she added.

Her announcement could free other Democrats to enter the race.

So far, no high-profile Democrat has announced a challenge to Collins next year. But the race is still early, and Collins herself hasn't formally announced she'll seek re-election.

Collins' office had no immediate comment Thursday.

Collins is a self-described centrist in an era of increasingly polarized politics. First elected to the Senate in 1996, she's now the last Republican member of Congress from New England. Rice's maternal grandparents emigrated from Jamaica to Maine in the 1910s. Her grandfather, David Augustus Dickson, worked as a shipper, porter and janitor. Rice's grandmother, Mary Dickson, a maid and seamstress, was named Maine State Mother of the Year in 1950. □



In this July 7, 2016 file photo, National Security Adviser Susan Rice follows President Barack Obama across the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, to board Marine One.

Associated Press

sa Mastromonaco at the 10th annual Women in the World Summit on Thursday in New York that she loves Maine and that her family has deep roots in the state. But she said she decided with her family "that the timing really isn't right for us." Rice tantalized Democrats in October when she expressed interest in Collins' seat during the contentious confirmation hearing

ugh "felt like betrayal."

Rice said during the event on Thursday that her daughter is going into her junior year of high school and moving to Maine to run a campaign isn't the best move for her family. Rice and her family currently reside in Washington D.C. "I really believe that the state of Maine deserves the best possible leadership in the Senate," she said. "In

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Police again step in as Texas lawmaker halts abortion bill

By CLARICE SILBER
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A Texas sheriff's department said Thursday it had "security concerns" over social media posts targeting a Republican lawmaker, who has come under fire by some conservative activists after blocking a bill that could lead to a woman being charged with homicide if she has an abortion. It marks the second time this month that Texas law enforcement has taken protective measures involving Republican lawmakers, who in both cases have been blamed by frustrated groups for torpedoing divisive measures, first over guns and now abortion. Last week, House Speaker Dennis Bonnen said a gun-rights advocate went to his family residence over displeasure that lawmakers weren't seriously considering efforts to legalize carrying a handgun without a

permit. State troopers met the man at the home of Bonnen, who said lawmakers and their families were being "incessantly harassed by fanatical gun rights activists."

The latest episode involves Republican state Rep. Jeff Leach, who earlier this week refused to advance the anti-abortion bill in his committee. He said Thursday that local authorities were monitoring his house near Dallas but declined further comment, referring questions to authorities.

"We have notified Representative Jeff Leach that we are currently looking into some security concerns related to him and are taking appropriate measures," Sgt. Nick Bristow of the Collin County sheriff's office said in a statement.

He would not elaborate about what measures sheriff's deputies have taken or provide details about the nature of the posts.



In this March 7, 2019 file photo, State Rep. Jeff Leach, at podium, stands with fellow lawmakers and guests to talk about the Texas Born-Alive bill, in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

Leach, who chairs the House committee that held a public hearing on the measure, known as House Bill 896, said in a statement posted on Twitter that the

bill would not advance. Prominent anti-abortion groups in Texas have also come out against the measure, including the Texas Alliance for Life, which noted

that no states prosecuted women before the landmark Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide. "My commitment to advancing the pro-life cause is stronger than ever and that's why I cannot in good conscience support House Bill 896," Leach said. Leach is a former member of the Texas House Freedom Caucus that has pushed contentious bills over social issues, gun rights and anti-vaccination measures. But he left the caucus this year, which came only months after narrowly winning re-election victory in suburban Dallas, where Democrats in 2018 made inroads in historically conservative districts.

The anti-abortion bill sponsored by Republican Rep. Tony Tinderholt would direct the state to enforce the measure regardless of any contrary federal law, executive order or court decision. □



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Infighting stalls disaster aid for Puerto Rico, Southeast



Senate Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer of N.Y., center, steps away from a podium following a Senate policy luncheon on Capitol Hill, Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

By **ANDREW TAYLOR**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six months after hurricanes devastated the Southeast, Washington infighting has shelved a widely backed disaster aid package that President Donald Trump's allies in Florida and Georgia are desperately seeking. Trump's opposition to aid to Puerto Rico — slammed by back-to-back hurricanes in 2017 — has sparked a standoff with Democrats demanding more aid for the island U.S. territory. Trump is feuding with the is-

land's Democratic officials and railed against aid to Puerto Rico at a closed-door lunch with Senate Republicans last month. Senate Republicans have stuck with the president so far, refusing to add more funding to help Puerto Rico rebuild its water systems or help its impoverished government with more generous disaster aid terms. Democrats in turn filibustered a \$14 billion aid package over the issue last week, and the measure has languished since. "Typically, when these kinds of things happen we figure out how to help as much as possible and do it on an overwhelming bipartisan basis and that's what needs to be done now," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., told reporters on Thursday. "I think we'll get there but it's been a little too political in my opinion." Now, both House and Senate are heading off for a two-week Easter recess, leaving struggling cotton farmers in the South in limbo at a crucial time for spring planting and failing to ease food stamp cuts in Puerto Rico. "It's an absolute travesty that this chamber is recessing without a compromise on much-needed funding for disaster relief," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "From the start, Democrats have supported an all-of-the-above approach, help every part of America that's struggling from natural disasters. We need to help everyone hurt last year, everyone hurt this

year, everyone hurt in Puerto Rico, everyone hurt in the middle West, everyone hurt in Florida." The cross-party finger pointing has been predictable, but Republicans are also upset with the White House. "Never before have we seen American communities that were wrecked with catastrophes neglected like this," said Rep. Austin Scott, R-Ga., usually a Trump loyalist, in a floor speech this week. "To this day, OMB has not even submitted a request for disaster assistance, calls to White House staff have gone unheeded, and but for one tweet on April 1, it seems the president has moved on." Frustration is also bubbling in the Senate, where Trump allies such as David Perdue of Georgia and Rick Scott of Florida — a state that's crucial to Trump's re-election — are pressuring the president to deal. Scott visited with Trump Thursday at the White House, along with Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala. "We're going to discuss where we are and where we think we might be able to go," Shelby said, telling reporters he was hoping to be able to make Democrats another offer afterward. Scott said he had a "good meeting" and said he would keep pushing for a deal. "I'm working with Republicans and Democrats to get this done," he said. "The people of Florida and Puerto Rico can't wait any longer." □

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Trump's sister retires, negating judicial ethics complaints

By LARRY NEUMEISTER and
MARYCLAIRE DALE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump's sister has retired as a federal appellate judge in Philadelphia, ending a civil misconduct inquiry launched after a report that she participated in Trump family schemes to dodge taxes.

The retirement of Maryanne Trump Barry was revealed in an April 1 order signed by a top court official in New York, where the misconduct case was assigned to prevent conflicts of interest for judges who knew Barry. A judicial panel began the review in response to four citizen complaints filed in October after The New York Times published a story alleging the president and his siblings evaded inheritance taxes.

The April 1 order said Barry's voluntary Feb. 11 retirement ends the review stemming from claims based on the news article alleging that Barry may have committed misconduct relating to tax and financial transactions that occurred mostly in the 1980s and 1990s.

The order said the complaint process was meant to correct conditions interfering with the "effective and expeditious" administration of court business. It said the resignation meant that Barry can no longer perform any judicial duties and thus can no longer be investigated.

Barry, 82, was not identified by name in the order, but the facts matched her circumstances, and a copy of the order was sent to Scott Shuchart, an attorney who filed one of the complaints and had been promised by the court to be kept updat-

ed on its progress.

Shuchart said he was "absolutely disappointed" that Barry was able to end scrutiny of her actions by retiring.

"If the Times story is correct, then she participated in a decades-long multimillion-dollar tax fraud. That should be an impeachable offense. She gets her full salary," he said.

"I think it's appalling that we're continuing to pay this criminal and that she now has completely avoided consequence," Shuchart added. "It's ridiculous."

Barry didn't respond to an email seeking comment. Chief Judge D. Brooks Smith of the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia released a statement calling Barry a "judicial giant" whose 36 years as a judge in the Philadelphia federal courts were "beyond exemplary."

"Judge Barry was a very hard working jurist with a sharp mind, keen instincts, and a quick wit. She was a role model for women in the law, and she took that responsibility seriously," Smith said.

Judge Theodore McKee, another of Barry's 3rd Circuit's colleagues, told The Associated Press that Barry was a meticulous judge who protected the court's reputation, and to the extent the complaints "may have cast aspersions on that, I know she would have been very concerned."

The 15,000-word Times report last year said that Trump's father, Fred, transferred ownership of most of his real estate empire to his four living children before he died in the late 1990s.

The Times investigation, based in part on more than

100,000 pages of financial documents including confidential tax returns from the father and his companies, concluded that the value of the properties was vastly understated when they were reported as \$41.4 million. It said the properties were later sold over the next decade for over 16 times that amount.

The Times reported Trump's parents transferred over \$1 billion to their children. It said that the transfer should have produced a tax bill of at least \$550 million, but that the children paid only about \$52.2 million.

Trump has called the Times expose a false "hit piece." If members of the family did



In this Nov. 9, 2016 file photo, federal judge Maryanne Trump Barry, sister of Donald Trump, sits in the balcony during Trump's election night rally in New York.

Associated Press

break any laws, the expiration of a statute of limitations makes a criminal prosecution unlikely, though lawsuits might be possible. With a recently approved retroactive pay raise for federal appellate judges, Barry will receive \$223,700 annually in retirement.

After her brother's election, Barry gave up her court staff and took inactive status in early 2017.

A Republican, she was nominated for a judgeship by President Ronald Reagan and was elevated to the circuit court by President Bill Clinton. □



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Authorities say deputy's son behind fires at black churches

By MELINDA DESLATTE and KEVIN MCGILL

OPELOUSAS, La. (AP) — The suspect in a string of fires that destroyed three black churches in rural Louisiana is the white son of a sheriff's deputy whose father helped arrange for his arrest, authorities said Thursday.

Holden Matthews, 21, was jailed without bail on arson charges in connection with the blazes in and around Opelousas, a city of 16,000 where the flame-gutted remains of the buildings evoked memories of civil rights era violence.

Louisiana Fire Marshal Butch Browning offered no motive for the fires. He and other officials stopped short of calling them hate crimes. Eric Rommal, the agent in charge of the New Orleans FBI office, said investigators were still looking into whether the fires were "bias motivated."

Browning said there were no indications that anyone else was involved and the danger to churches was over.

"This community is safe again," he told a news conference. "We are extremely, unequivocally confident that we have the person who is responsible for these tragic crimes."

The Rev. Harry Richard, pastor of Greater Union Baptist Church, which was destroyed, said the arrest put him at ease and let him sleep at night.

"I felt relieved my congregation didn't have to worry



This booking image released by the Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal shows Holden Matthews, 21, who was arrested Thursday, April 11, 2019, in connection with suspicious fires at three historic black churches in southern Louisiana.

Associated Press

anymore," said Richard, who was told of the arrest late Wednesday. "I was reassured that law enforcement was on our side, that things were finally coming to an end."

Investigators used surveillance video, cellphone tracking and a Walmart receipt to help identify Matthews, who was arrested late Wednesday. They moved quickly, arresting him within 12 hours because they were worried that "other crimes were imminent," Browning said.

The charred remains of a red gas can recovered at one of the churches was sold at Walmart locations, and the company's investigators found that the

same type of gas can was bought March 25 at a store in Opelousas, along with automotive cloths and a lighter.

The debit card used in that purchase belonged to Matthews, according to court documents.

"The purchase time on this receipt is less than three hours before the first church fire was reported," an affidavit said.

In addition, cellphone tower data showed Matthews was in the area of all three fires. Surveillance video from businesses and homes near the churches, and on the roads to and from each fire scene, repeatedly showed a vehicle that was consistent with the beige pickup that belonged to Matthews' father. Matthews apparently drove the truck to buy the gas can and other items, according to the court documents.

St. Landry Parish Sheriff Bobby Guidroz confirmed that the suspect was the son of deputy Roy Matthews, whom he described as an excellent employee who knew nothing of his son's actions.

The elder Matthews was heartbroken when told his son was a suspect, the sheriff said.

"He broke down," Guidroz said. "It was hard." He said

the father arranged for the son to leave the house and go to a place where he could be arrested without incident. He did not elaborate.

The younger Matthews was arrested on three counts of arson of a religious building. A conviction could bring up to 15 years in prison on each count, Browning said. The fires set many people on edge in and around Opelousas, about 140 miles northwest of New Orleans. An Associated Press reporter was turned away from what was believed to be the home the suspect shared with his parents.

Matthews had a defender in Nygyl Brynn, a Facebook friend who identified himself as a south Louisiana native, musician, entrepreneur and agent. In a telephone interview from Los Angeles, Brynn described Matthews as a talented, sometimes frustrated musician but not a racist or violent person.

"As far as being a white supremacist? No. Absolutely not," Brynn said.

Brynn said he met Matthews after moving out of state when Matthews, who played guitar and sang, answered an online ad while seeking a record deal. They worked together and met face to face over the years.

Matthews had long been upset with his parents for not supporting his musical efforts, Brynn said. He also said Matthews had been discouraged in recent months as Brynn urged him to improve the quality of his recordings. But Brynn said he never sensed anger that would lead to arson.

Matthews had shown interest in "black metal," an extreme subgenre of heavy metal, Browning said. The music has been linked, in some instances, to fires at Christian churches in Norway in the 1990s.

A Facebook page that appeared to belong to Matthews showed him with the words "black metal" spray painted on a wall behind him. He also posted a comment on a movie's portrayal of black metal musician Varg Vikernes, a far-right figure convicted of manslaughter and arson at three churches.

Black metal lyrics often espouse satanism and paganism, and a few bands feature neo-Nazi beliefs.

Brynn acknowledged that some people involved in black metal music have expressed racist ideas, but he insisted it's not typical of the genre.

"We've got friends of all races," he said. "This is a very large community. Despite the awful image, this is the most loving community you could imagine."

The fires happened over a 10-day period. The first blaze torched the St. Mary Baptist Church on March 26 in Port Barre, a town just outside of Opelousas. Days later, the Greater Union Baptist Church and Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Opelousas were burned. Each was more than 100 years old.

The churches were empty at the time, and no one was injured.

Denzel Washington, a 23-year-old black resident of Opelousas, lamented the loss for the congregations that now have to rebuild. "But what's the sense in hate? Forgiven. Forgive what he's done. It's not going to change nothing," he said. □

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Report takes issue with error-prone Chicago gang database

By MICHAEL TARM

CHICAGO (AP) — A poorly managed police database of 130,000 purported street-gang members in Chicago is rife with errors and offers no practical way for those wrongly entered into it to purge their names, the city's inspector general of-fice says in a sharply critical report released Thursday. Inclusion in the database can ruin job prospects and draw unwarranted police scrutiny over decades, and the 159-page report urges the city to reevaluate its usefulness compared with the deep resentment it engenders in many lower-income, minority neighborhoods.

If unaddressed, flaws in the gang-intelligence system "will continue to undermine public trust" in police, says the report, which calls for an appeals process that would enable those never in a gang or who have since abandoned gang life to strike their names. As it is, the report says, "gang designations are permanent and inescapable."

The nation's third largest city has some 60 gangs and hundreds of gang factions. Chicago police say most of the city's homicides have a gang link, though the report said that claim is sometimes overstated. More than 560 people were killed in Chicago last year, more than in Los Angeles and New York combined. Criteria for designating someone a gang member, the report says, can seem arbitrary.

In a federal lawsuit last year, plaintiff Donta Lucas said he was falsely named a Gangster Disciple based on ankle tattoo officers saw when they arrested him in 2012 for a bowling alley fight. The lawsuit, which sought class-action status, alleged some people are deemed gang members simply because they happen to live on blocks with active gangs.

Officers never informed Lucas that they believed he was a gang member

or that they registered him as one. Four years later, he couldn't get a concealed-carry permit for a security job because he was in the database, the suit says. The Chicago report said police have no set time period after which someone's name is automatically deleted. The database has no age limits either: One person was first included at age 9 and has remained in it for nearly 20 years.

The report also criticizes a lack of controls over how the data is used by more than 500 entities outside the Chicago Police Department.

Notations on gang-arrest cards, often the basis for putting a name into the database, raise questions about biases, the report says. On the cards where officers enter occupations of suspects, some wrote "bum," "loser," "turd" and other demeaning terms.

An overall problem is that the database isn't a stand-alone system but an often-haphazard collection of "internal databases, forms, visualization tools, and repositories," according to the report.

Among the report's 30 recommendations is for the police to draw up written agreements with outside agencies with rules about how the database can be used. It also recommends a notification system to inform someone whose name is added.

Police agreed "with the vast majority" of the recommendations, Superintendent Eddie Johnson said in a 28-page letter to the inspector general's office last week after reviewing an advance copy of the report. The letter was included in the report released Thursday.

As part of what he called a "process of historic reform and transformation," the department had already begun overhauling how police gather and manage gang intelligence, including by establishing "clear standards" on determin-

ing whether someone is a gang member.

The report acknowledges the department's vow to improve the database, but says it was too quick to decide the database is essential to police work before seeking comments from affected communities. □



Joseph Lipari, deputy inspector general for Public Safety, looks on as Chicago Inspector General Joe Ferguson discusses the audit of the Chicago Police Department's "gang database" during press conference at City Hall, Thursday, April 11, 2019.
Associated Press

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WikiLeaks' Assange hauled from embassy, faces US charge

LONDON (AP) — British police on Thursday hauled a bearded and shouting Julian Assange from the Ecuadorian Embassy where he was holed up for nearly seven years, and the U.S. charged the WikiLeaks founder with conspiring with former Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to get their hands on government secrets.

Police arrested Assange after the South American nation revoked the political asylum that had protected him in the embassy, and he was brought before a British court — the first step in an extradition battle that he has vowed to fight.

Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno said he decided to evict the 47-year-old Assange from the embassy after "repeated violations to international conventions and daily-life protocols," and he later lashed out at him during a speech in Quito, calling the Australian native a "spoiled brat" who treated his hosts with disrespect.

In Washington, the U.S. Justice Department accused Assange of conspiring with Manning to break into a classified government computer at the Pentagon. The charge was announced after Assange was taken into custody.

Assange took refuge in the embassy in 2012 after he was released on bail in Britain while facing extradition to Sweden on sexual assault allegations that have since been dropped. He refused to leave the embassy, fearing arrest and extradition to the U.S. for publishing classi-



Julian Assange gestures as he arrives at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London, after the WikiLeaks founder was arrested by officers from the Metropolitan Police and taken into custody Thursday April 11, 2019.

Associated Press

fied military and diplomatic cables through WikiLeaks. Manning, who served several years in prison for leaking troves of classified documents before her sentence was commuted by then-President Barack Obama, is again in custody in Alexandria, Virginia, for refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating WikiLeaks. Manning's legal team said the indictment against Assange showed prosecutors didn't need her testimony and called for her to be released, saying her continued detention would be "purely punitive." Over the years, Assange used Ecuador's embassy as a platform to keep his name before the public, frequently making appearances on its tiny balcony,

posing for pictures and reading statements. Even his cat became famous. But his presence was an embarrassment to U.K. authorities, who for years kept a police presence around the clock outside the embassy, costing taxpayers millions in police overtime. Such surveillance was removed in 2015, but the embassy remained a focal point for his activities. Video posted online by Ruptly, a news service of Russia Today, showed several men in suits pulling a handcuffed Assange out of the embassy and loading him into a police van while uniformed British police formed a passageway. Assange, who shouted and gestured as he was removed, sported a full

beard and slicked-back gray hair.

He later appeared in Westminster Magistrates' Court, where District Judge Michael Snow wasted no time in finding him guilty of breaching his bail conditions, flatly rejecting his assertion that he had not had a fair hearing and a reasonable excuse for not appearing.

"Mr. Assange's behavior is that of a narcissist who cannot get beyond his own selfish interests," Snow said. "He hasn't come close to establishing 'reasonable excuse.'"

Assange waved to the packed public gallery as he was taken to the cells. His next appearance was set for May 2 via prison video-link in relation to the

extradition case.

Assange's attorney, Jennifer Robinson, said he will fight any extradition to the U.S.

"This sets a dangerous precedent for all journalist and media organizations in Europe and around the world," she said. "This precedent means that any journalist can be extradited for prosecution in the United States for having published truthful information about the United States."

Asked at the White House about the arrest, President Donald Trump declared, "It's not my thing," and "I know nothing about WikiLeaks," despite praising the anti-secrecy organization dozens of times during his 2016 campaign.

Assange has been under U.S. Justice Department scrutiny for years for WikiLeaks' role in publishing government secrets. He was an important figure in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe as investigators examined how WikiLeaks obtained emails that were stolen from Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and Democratic groups.

WikiLeaks quickly drew attention to U.S. interest in Assange and said that Ecuador had illegally terminated Assange's political asylum "in violation of international law."

"Powerful actors, including CIA, are engaged in a sophisticated effort to dehumanise, de-legitimise and imprison him," the group said in a tweet over a photo of Assange's smiling face. □

Spain campaign to see far right, Socialists fight for votes

JOSEPH WILSON

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Spain's political parties are set to start campaigning for a general election this month in which the ruling Socialists are trying to remain in power and the extreme right is seeking to enter Parliament.

The official campaign period that starts at midnight Thursday promises to be a fierce fight for the large pool of undecided voters identified in election polls. Support from those voters could be key to whether the Socialist government led by Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez continues on or the election ushers in a coalition government made up of right-wing parties.

The national election on April 28 will be Spain's third in four years, a pace that reflects political fragmentation from the emergence of new parties. Polls indicate the upstart

far-right party Vox could win around 10% of the vote, adding a fifth national party of significant size to the Congress of Deputies, the lower chamber of the Spanish parliament.

A government opinion poll published this week forecast that the Socialist Party would displace the conservative Popular Party as the election's top vote-getter but fall short of winning enough for an outright parliamentary majority.

The government poll also found that that 41% of those polled were unsure how they would mark their ballots. The poll of 16,194 potential voters conducted March 1-18 was much larger than other polls in Spain. Sánchez's most likely options for staying in power rest on either his Socialists maintaining support from the far-left Podemos party and some regionalist parties, or on striking a deal



A poster of Spanish Prime Minister and Socialist Party candidate Pedro Sánchez is stored in a garage in Ciudad Real, Spain, Thursday, April 11, 2019.

Associated Press

with the center-right Citizens party.

The chances for new Popular Party leader Pablo Casado to replace Sán-

chez may depend on the how well the upstart far right party Vox performs. Vox, with its anti-immigration and ultra nationalist views,

was crucial to the Popular and Citizens parties kicking the Socialists out of power in Spain's southern Andalusia region in January.

Drumming up votes for the Socialists is important, Sánchez said, because his is "the only party that can stop the three parties of the right."

"Spain needs stability, reforms and a future, not the retrogression like the one that the three right-wing parties are proposing," Sánchez told Spanish television channel La Sexta.

While Sánchez is running on his pledge to spend more on social programs, the most polarizing issue of the campaign will be the unresolved crisis from the Catalonia region's failed bid to secede two years ago. □



The sun rises over the buildings of the banking district in Frankfurt, Germany, Thursday, April 11, 2019.

Associated Press

German authorities raid homes, offices in tax fraud probe


Associated Press


BERLIN (AP) — German prosecutors have searched over a dozen offices and homes across the country as part of their investigation into a massive tax fraud going back more than a decade, officials said Thursday.


The scheme involved so-called cum-ex transactions in which participants would lend each other shares

so they could collect reimbursement for taxes they hadn't paid, costing taxpayers across Europe billions of euros (dollars).

Frankfurt prosecutors said about 170 officers raided 19 premises in four German states Tuesday. In total, German authorities are conducting 10 separate investigations into cum-ex schemes, some of which involved bank employees.





ALERT FOR DETOURS


J.E. IRAUSQUIN BLVD



This upcoming **Saturday, April 13th, 2019** from **9:00 AM** the intersection between **J.E. Irausquin Blvd** and **Caya Punta Brabo**, across the street from the **Alhambra Casino**, will be closed for the construction of a roundabout. Traffic will be deviated via **Caya Dr. J.E.M. Arends**. The duration of this project will be 2 months.

DOW and Mota-Engil Aruba ask the general public of Aruba and all motorists to be aware of these detours.

Ukraine campaign heats up with new court, truck video

By YURAS KARMANAU
KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's president on Thursday ordered the creation of a special anti-corruption court in an apparent attempt to catch up with his challenger, who has taken a commanding lead in the presidential runoff race. A poll conducted by the Reiting survey group found comic actor Volodymyr Zelenskiy with 61% support while President Petro Poroshenko had 24% ahead of a runoff set for April 21. The poll released Thursday was based on answers from 3,000 respondents and had a margin of error of 1.8 percentage points. The 41-year-old comic actor, who plays the role of the nation's president in a hugely popular TV sitcom, has never held political office.

Zelenskiy's popularity, however, reflects public longing for a fresh leader who has no ties to Ukraine's corruption-ridden political elite and can propose a new way to settle the grinding five-year conflict with Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine that has



Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko speaks to the media after he past medical tests taken by experts from the Voluntary Anti-Doping Association (VADA) ahead of a runoff vote, at Kiev Olimpiyskiy Stadium, in Kiev, Ukraine, Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

Associated Press

left 13,000 people dead since 2014. He easily beat Poroshenko in the first round on March 31, garnering 30% of the vote, while the incumbent

got just under 16%. Amid an increasingly heated campaign, Zelenskiy's office on Thursday accused Poroshenko's election headquarters of post-

ing a video in which Zelenskiy is run over by a heavy truck. It said it perceives the video as a clear threat that warrants additional security measures. Poroshenko's

campaign denied that it was responsible for putting out the video and Ukrainian police said they launched a criminal investigation into the incident. Poroshenko, 53, saw his approval ratings plummet amid Ukraine's economic woes and a sharp plunge in living standards amid a conflict with Russia, which annexed Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula in 2014. He has cast himself as a strong statesman capable of standing up to Russia, claiming that Zelenskiy's lack of political experience will make him an easy prey for the Kremlin. But even though most of the world has rejected Russia's annexation of Crimea, there are no signs that Ukraine under any political leader is getting the territory back. Poroshenko also has been repeatedly accused of turning a blind eye to corruption. In addition, the exposure of a military embezzlement scheme that allegedly involved top Poroshenko associates as well as a factory controlled by the president has badly dented his popularity. □

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Polish senator defends 'purging' comment amid outrage



Polish Senator Grzegorz Bierecki talks to reporters in Warsaw, Poland, Thursday, April 11, 2019.

Associated Press

By VANESSA GERA
Associated Press
WARSAW, Poland (AP) — A Polish senator who caused

outrage by saying Poland should be "purged" of those "not worthy of belonging to our national community"

said Thursday he is sorry if his words were taken the wrong way and that it is nonsense to think he plans any purges. Grzegorz Bierecki made his controversial comments Wednesday during a ceremony in his eastern Polish constituency of Biala Podlaska on the ninth anniversary of a plane crash that killed the Polish president and 95 others. "We will not stop until we have fully purged Poland of people who are not worthy of belonging to our national community," Bierecki said. A clip of his words circulated on social media and drew condemnation. Many of the critics of the ruling Law and Justice party, to which Bierecki belongs, said his language recalled that of fascists in the 1930s.



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South Korean court orders easing of decades-old abortion ban

By HYUNG-JIN KIM

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

In a major reversal, South Korea's Constitutional Court on Thursday ordered the easing of the country's decades-old ban on most abortions, one of the strictest in the developed world. Abortions have been largely illegal in South Korea since 1953, though convictions for violating the restrictions are rare. Still, the illegality of abortions forces women to seek out unauthorized and often expensive procedures to end their pregnancies, creating a social stigma that makes them feel like criminals.

The court's nine-justice panel said that the parliament must revise legislation to ease the current regulations by the end of 2020. It said the current abortion law was incompatible with the constitution and would be repealed if parliament fails to come up with new legislation by then.

The ruling is final and cannot be appealed, court officials said, but current regulations will remain in effect until they are replaced



Protesters celebrate after listening to a judgment during a rally demanding the abolition of abortion law outside of the Constitutional Court in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, April 11, 2019.

Associated Press

or repealed.

An easing of the law could open up the door to more abortions for social and economic reasons. Current exceptions to the law only allow abortions when a woman is pregnant through rape or incest, when a pregnancy seriously jeopardizes her health, or when she or her male partner has

certain diseases.

A woman in South Korea can be punished with up to one year in prison for having an illegal abortion, and a doctor can get up to two years in prison for performing an unauthorized abortion.

Thursday's verdict was a response to an appeal filed in February 2017 by an obste-

trician charged with carrying out about 70 unauthorized abortions from 2013-2017 at the request or approval of pregnant women. Most other countries in the 36-member Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the so-called most developed countries, allow abortions for broad social and eco-

nomical reasons. South Korea is one of only five OECD member states that don't allow such abortions, according to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family.

The South Korean public has been sharply split over the abortion law. There have been heated panel discussions on TV and internet programs; activists, both for and against, have for months stood with placards near the court. Dozens gathered on Thursday.

After the ruling, women's rights activists cheered. Some shook their placards and shouted: "Abolish the anti-abortion law!"

Roseann Rife, Amnesty International's East Asia research director, called the ruling "a major step forward for the human rights of women and girls in South Korea."

Also outside the court were anti-abortion advocates, some of whom cried. Some held placards carrying images of fetuses and messages such as "Who can speak for me?" and "Don't kill me, please." □

Russia moves to expand government control of internet

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian lawmakers approved Thursday a bill that would expand government authority over the internet and whose opponents fear heralds widespread censorship.

The bill would install equipment to route Russian internet traffic through servers in the country. That would increase the powers of state agencies and make it harder for users to circumvent government restrictions.

The proposed move

sparked protests of several thousand people in Moscow last month. Opponents argue it would allow the state to control the flow of information and enforce blocks on messaging applications which refuse to hand over data.

Advocates say the bill is intended to address concerns that Russia could be cut off if the United States engages in a cybersecurity offensive. The bill passed by 322-15 in a second reading in the lower house of parliament. The second reading is when amendments

are finalized, and is usually the most important. The bill must pass a third reading and the upper house before being signed into law by President Vladimir Putin. Since last year, Russian authorities have been trying to block the messaging app Telegram, which has refused to hand over users' encrypted messages in defiance of a court order.

Telegram's traffic used millions of different internet protocol addresses, meaning attempts to block it resembled a game of whack-a-mole. □



People are silhouetted as they walk along an avenue past an old Orthodox church in the background in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

Associated Press

Brazil's Bolsonaro has a few wins, some missteps in 100 days

By MARCELO SILVA DE SOUZA

MAURICIO SAVARESE

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

President Jair Bolsonaro's first 100 days in office have been marked by infighting in his administration, insults to adversaries and allies, praise for Brazil's 1964-1985 dictatorship and a scarcity of bills passed by Congress — pretty much the same as his record as a congressman and as a candidate. So far, the anti-corruption and pro-gun outsider who is frequently compared to U.S. President Donald Trump has scored only a few major victories to keep his far-right base excited. Bolsonaro's electoral triumph in October sent Brazil's left to its biggest defeat in almost two decades. But for many, so far Bolsonaro's administration is heavy on discourse and light on concrete accomplishments.

Bolsonaro has achieved some of his campaign promises: He signed a decree easing restrictions on gun ownership as an anti-crime move, privatized some state-run companies, installed a Cabinet with eight members of the military — more than at any time since the restoration of democracy — and has built strong ties with Trump and Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu while distancing Brazil from Venezuela's socialist leader, Nicolas Maduro.

He has also begun moves to weaken environmental restrictions on development, as promised.

Still, as he marks off his 100th day in the presidency Wednesday, he has also given critics a lot of material to work with, and corruption suspicions against the president's family have emerged.

The former army captain has been widely criticized for celebrating the March 31, 1964, coup that launched Brazil's military regime and for labeling Nazism as a leftist ideology while in Jerusalem. He managed to offend even allies with a pornographic tweet of a Carnival party



In this Jan. 1, 2019 file photo, Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro points with his fingers to mimic guns as he rides in an open car with his wife, first lady Michelle Bolsonaro, after his swearing-in ceremony in Brasilia, Brazil.

Associated Press

in response to revelers who had mocked him.

What is widely seen as his most crucial challenge—fixing the country's costly pension system — remains trapped in Congress with other proposals, including a highly touted revamp of the anti-crime and anti-corruption systems.

During 27 years in Congress, Bolsonaro was noted for inflammatory speeches but presented only two bills that became law.

"This administration is characterized by strong rhetoric that is not necessarily supported by actions in the same direction," said Renato Flores, an analyst with the Rio-based Fundacao Getulio Vargas think-tank. Some once-staunch supporters of the president now worry about the role he gives to his sons Carlos, Eduardo and Flavio. Criticism by Carlos helped prompt the resignation of Bolsonaro's aide and attorney Gustavo Bebianno. Eduardo alarmed some by tweeting that the president would need only "one soldier and one corporal" to deal with the Supreme Court.

Bolsonaro's Cabinet appears to be divided into

four, sometimes fractious factions: the military, with eight out of 22 ministers; evangelical conservatives who control the government's human rights agenda; a moderate wing overseeing economic and justice ministries, and a cluster of anti-globalist fans of Olavo de Carvalho, a far-right Brazilian writer who lives in the United States, now dominate foreign relations and education.

Carlos Melo, a political science professor at Insper University in Sao Paulo, said the divisions put Bolsonaro's administration "in paralysis from the start."

"There are too many conflicts. We can't see a proper plan to grow the economy and Bolsonaro is losing the momentum presidents have in the first six months. Even his pension reform, which led many moderates to believe him, seems at risk of failing or being massively dehydrated by the very Congress he doesn't talk to," Melo said. "It can all change; he has time. But the signs are not here yet." Even lower house Speaker Rodrigo Maia, who initially had good relations with Bolsonaro, has complained that the far-right leader is

"playing at being Brazil's president."

"Now it is time for us to stop joking around and it is time that he sits on his chair that Congress sits here and we solve Brazil's problems together," Maia said last month.

The public also seems restless. The Datafolha polling institute reported Sunday that Bolsonaro's approval rating has slipped to 32%, the lowest for any elected first-term Brazilian president, though still far above the single-digit approval rating his predecessor, Michel Temer, had at the end.

Datafolha interviewed 2,086 people April 2-3 and reported a two-percentage point margin of error. Business leaders and stockbrokers initially welcomed Bolsonaro's victory, but so far there has been little sign of economic improvement. Unemployment officially is still at 12%, a record 4.9 million Brazilians stopped searching for jobs in March and an initial stock market rally was erased following some of the president's Twitter-made rifts with allies. The government research institute recently reduced its 2019 economic growth expectations from 2.7% to

2%.

Bolsonaro, who likes to say he is pushing ideology out of Brazil's foreign affairs, has shifted the country's alliances toward other leaders who share his conservative tendencies, joining in regional efforts to isolate Venezuela's Maduro.

He has been hosted in Trump's White House and in Netanyahu's Jerusalem, but China, Brazil's biggest trading partner, has been shunned. Agribusiness leaders fear that approach could harm Brazilian exports to Asia.

Vice President Hamilton Mourao has tried to soften that stance, calling China a partner and meeting with Chinese diplomats.

The man once hailed as an anti-corruption hero by supporters is facing suspicions of familial wrongdoing.

Regulatory authorities said his son Flavio, who is also a senator, received 48 suspicious payments totaling about \$25,000 in a single month from his former driver Fabricio Queiroz, who also made a payment to first lady Michelle Bolsonaro of about \$5,500. All involved deny any wrongdoing. An investigation is ongoing.

None of those difficulties have alienated Bolsonaro's hardcore supporters, like 60-year-old hairdresser Roberta Duarte. "Bolsonaro is doing what he promised. No other president did this in more than 50 years. He is putting the house in order, fighting crime and violence," said Duarte, who lives in a violent region in the south of Sao Paulo. "Violence was so strong that no one could leave at night to watch a movie or eat a pizza. Slowly things are improving." Others, like 18-year-old journalism student Lucas Batista, are worried by Bolsonaro's frequent nods to Brazil's military dictatorship when his administration comes under criticism. "He is an authoritarian leader who believes he is the only one capable of solving the country's problems," Batista said. "I fear Bolsonaro and his followers want to reintroduce a military regime." □

LOCAL



The monthly ATSA meeting features Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes as guest speaker

Palm Beach -- Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, CEO, Aruba Tourism Authority accepted the invitation of the Aruba Timeshare Association to participate in the monthly March meeting, and to make a presentation to members based on Aruba's Timeshare Profile and Guest Experience Index, for the period of October 2017 to October 2018.

The document was prepared in order to enhance corporate communications with stakeholders, Tjin-Asjoe explained, and to allow each individual hotel a detailed overview of its performance in comparison to other timeshare properties.

The information for the presentation was derived from a study of immigration cards and exit surveys filled out by stay-over guests upon departure, which was compiled into a comprehensive document.

Luigi Heredia, President ATSA, and the general manager of Costa Linda Beach Resort extended Big Congratulations to all resorts as the Timeshare Satisfaction scores for 2018 came in very high. In the study participants were asked to rate the accommodation property they stayed at on how this property performed on friendliness, cleanliness, security, accessibility, professionalism, amenities and price value on a scale of 1 -6, and the score earned by the Aruba timeshare properties came to 5.51 which is the equivalent of 91.83% satisfaction, with the top 3 categories being Friendliness, Cleanliness and Security.

As is the case with all visitors to the island, March and July were peak months in the timeshare properties here, and YTD October 2018, the timeshare resorts hosted a 27.8% share of total visitors to Aruba, VS the hotels that hosted 51.8% of total visitors. And as expected visitors staying in timeshare resorts stayed longer than those staying at hotels.

Similar to the hotels the great majority of timeshare guests hailed from the USA, 84%, and most of them arrived here from NY, Boston and Philadelphia.

As far as the Timeshare Guest Experience Index, based on general guests' perception and online reviews, that number reached an impressive 86.67, and was based on a total 2,822 reviews.

The ATSA was pleased to hear that timeshare continues to index higher overall satisfaction scores in comparison to hotels and all-inclusive properties.

Tjin Asjoe-Croes remarked: "We are grateful to the Aruba Timeshare Association for the continued dialogue and exchange of information. With a close to 30% of Aruba's visitors staying at a timeshare property, this sector has been and remains critical to Aruba's tourism as well as economic wellbeing. Satisfaction / Guest Experience scores are above average. Keep it up! In saying this, it is acknowledged that the sector is to continue to evolve in line with changing consumer behavior. Balancing the needs of our current visitors with that of future travelers remains a top priority." □



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FEF Beach Clean Up Activity 2019

ORANJESTAD — Last Friday the Faculty for Accounting, Finance and Marketing (FEF) organized a Beach Clean Up event as part of the 3rd year integrated project. This project is being offered to 3rd year students from both majors; Accounting & Finance as well as Marketing. Five international students from Windesheim Honors College were also involved in this project, teaming up with the local students.

The goal of the integrated project for the

students is to act as consultancy agents for local companies, addressing real life problems and formulate practical, research based solutions. The project runs in the month of April and consists of three weeks. During the first week, students meet with the company and set up a project plan, followed by two consecutive weeks where they have to execute their plan and present their outcomes to a jury, composed of professionals from the work field.



Travel Tips

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1. When checking-in, you will always need your valid passport, along with your ticket, e-ticket receipt or e-ticket confirmation. For some countries a Visa is also required.
2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
5. For all Non US flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the right side of building; follow the signs and head towards Local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates.
6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
7. Always check the weight limit of your baggage; excess weight may result in penalty fees.
8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when traveling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
11. Remove shoes at checkpoint and place in tray for x-ray machine screening.
12. All electronic items should be placed in tray outside their case for x-ray screening.
13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
15. If you medical documentation, present this to the security checkpoint screener to inform them. The documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the screening process.
16. Take note of inadmissible items such as sharp objects, sporting goods, guns and firearms, martial arts and self-defense items, tools, explosive materials, flammable items, disabling chemicals and other items when traveling. More information available on www.airportaruba.com.

To conclude the first project week, the students participated in the Beach Clean Up that took place in the area of Grape Field. Both AHATA and Ecotech sponsored the event by donating cleaning equipment and a waste container. In less than 2 hours, a group of around 30 students collected a total of 30 – 35 large waste bags. The group that collected the most waste will be rewarded with cash prizes during the kick-off of the second project week.

The project's theme addresses the so called New Economy, in which environmental care, corporate social responsibility and sustainability are important principles for taking care of Aruba's sustainable future. With this Beach Clean Up, FEF contributed to this vision with concrete actions of students, who will be the next generation of leaders. □

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Ship Concert for a Good Cause

ORANJESTAD — Would you like to experience something special while vacationing on Aruba and at the same time help the local community? Than this Saturday is your chance to do that. Foundation Telephone for Youth together with the University of Aruba organizes a concert on board of the ship Freewinds in Oranjestad.

In the light of the project "Best Dad Ever" the event is organized to recruit funds. The project of Telephone for Youth, in Papiamentu Telefon pa Hubentud, aims to better the relationship and connection between father and child. The foundation experiences that the distant connection between father and child are a present trend and cause number 1 for children

to call telephone for Youth to help them. Four student of the University of Aruba and the foundation Telephone for Youth are reaching out to you to buy a ticket for this great concert. Flamenco singer Angela Croes will perform live and there will be prizes for the audience that will be raffled. Also a drink and snackbox is included into the ticket price.

A ticket is only Afl. 35,00 / \$ 20.

Concert starts at 7.30 PM

For bookings call +297 560 9520 or email hubentud131@gmail.com

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Fundacion Telefon pa Hubentud operates an anonymous telephone and internet helpline for children and young people. Telefon pa Hubentud provides information, advice and assistance aimed at preventing, reducing or eliminating questions and problems of an individual or social nature among children, young people and groups of young people, and at monitoring needs, deficits, developments, expectations and the like, existing in society, in any way affecting the interests of children and young people, and developing a critical response thereto, and everything related to the objectives set forth above in the broadest sense.



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Ms. Hellen van der Wal unanimously elected Board Chair DCNA



ORANJESTAD — The Board of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) is proud to announce the recent appointment of Ms. Hellen van der Wal as its new Chairperson. The DCNA is a non-profit foundation and regional network created to support and assist nature organizations on the six Dutch Caribbean islands. DCNA aims to safeguard biodiversity and promote the sustainable management of the natural resources of the islands both on land and in the water for the benefit of present and future generations.

The DCNA works with dedicated nature con-

servation organizations on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten. By creating a united voice and sharing resources, skills and experience, DCNA is able to strengthen the network and support conservation initiatives throughout the Dutch Caribbean. DCNA also aims to provide the parks throughout the region with a sustainable funding future.

"A new Board Chair always has new ideas. It is important that the six islands stick together although that sometimes is challenging due to the constitutional change of the Kingdom and the special position of the BES-islands" explains Ms. van der Wal. Furthermore Ms. van der Wal wants to strengthen the alliance function the DCNA was founded for.

Hellen A. van der Wal was born in the Netherlands and raised in Aruba. The Aruban countryside and the Caribbean Sea were her playground for years. After finishing secondary school on Aruba she studied journalism and law in the Netherlands. In 1990 she returned to Aruba, working at different positions within the Department of Justice.

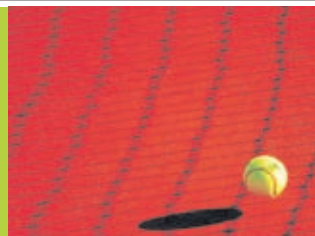
In 2018 her government career came to an end, when she was appointed member on behalf of Aruba at the Aruban Board of Financial Supervision. That same year she became a board member to the Fundacion Parke Nacional Aruba. Since 2018 she is the representative of the Aruban National Park Foundation in the DCNA General Board. In 2019 Ms van der Wal



became member of the Supervisory Board of the National Park Foundation of Aruba. As per 3th of April 2019, Ms. Hellen van der Wal is the unanimously elected Chairperson of the DCNA. Hellen van der Wal is very much socially engaged. She was one of the founders of the Aruban Children's Telephone Foundation and was elected Caribbean Representative at the NGO Advisory Council for follow up to the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children. In 2005 she founded the Society & Crime Foundation, to promote scientific research and the development of educational material and projects in the field of safety and prevention.

Due to her interest and former career she wants to put extra attention to child participation in nature conservation on the six islands. Other tasks facing Ms van der Wal as Chairperson include finding a new Director, improving governance as well as based on needs and priorities defined by the parks themselves, develop concrete strategies and program outlines. □

SPORTS



In this Nov. 1, 2018, file photo, Sacramento Kings head coach Dave Joerger is shown during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Atlanta Hawks, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Sacramento Kings fire coach Dave Joerger 3 losing seasons

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— Sacramento's best season in 13 years wasn't enough to save coach Dave Joerger's job.

General manager Vlade Divac fired Joerger on Thursday after he helped develop the young Kings into playoff contenders before ultimately falling short in the franchise's 13th straight losing season.

"I think he did a great job to make that step," Divac said. "But moving forward, I just felt like we had to go a different direction. It's been three years and we made some progress. This year was a good season but I think we could do more, especially after All-Star break."

Continued on Page 23

MASTERS GRASS



Koepka, DeChambeau scorch back nine, share lead

Bryson DeChambeau reacts after his birdie on the 17th hole during the first round for the Masters golf tournament Thursday, April 11, 2019, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press
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Koepka, DeChambeau share lead at the Masters

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — No need to wait until Sunday for the Masters to come to life.

Brooks Koepka, Bryson DeChambeau and Phil Mickelson delivered enough excitement over the final two hours Thursday for quite an opening act at Augusta National.

Koepka, a winner in two of the last three majors, ran off four straight birdies in the middle of the back nine by overpowering a soft course. DeChambeau came within inches of two hole-outs over the last three holes as he closed with four straight birdies.

They each had a 6-under 66, giving them a one-shot lead over the 49-year-old Mickelson, who provided his own brand of entertainment.

Mickelson began the back nine with shots into the pine trees and the water, only to follow with four birdies over the next five holes, including a tee shot on the par-3 16th that stopped inches from the cup.

Tiger Woods missed all the action. He played earlier in the round and plodded his way to a 70. It was a solid start for Woods in his quest to end 11 years without a major, and he was atop the leaderboard briefly until a late bogey. He sounded satisfied.



		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
HOLE	PAR	4	5	4	3	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	3	5	4	5	3	4	4
WOODS		0		1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	2	
APHIBARNRAT		0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	3
DeCHAMBEAU		0	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	4	5		
POULTER		0	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	4	4	4		
KOEPKA		0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	4	5	6	6				
MICKELSON		0	1	1	2	2	1	0	1	2	2	3	4	4					
KISNER		0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	3	3	3	3		
HARDING		2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	3	
RAHM		2	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
JOHNSON		1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	3	3	3	4						

Brooks Koepka walks on the 17th hole during the first round for the Masters golf tournament Thursday, April 11, 2019, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

"I've shot this number and won four coats, so hopefully, I can do it again," said Woods, who slightly miscalculated. The last green jacket he won in 2005 began with a 74. The goal was to not fall too far behind early.

Rory McIlroy's bid for the last leg of the career Grand Slam began with a 73, which featured six bogeys. "I made five birdies — that wasn't the problem," McIlroy said. "I just made too many mistakes, and that was the problem."

Even more surprising to McIlroy was no one from the early starters took advantage of soft turf from recent rains.

"It's there for the taking, and I'm surprised someone hasn't run off," McIlroy said. And that's right about when Koepka and DeChambeau took off.

More impressive than the four straight birdies by DeChambeau was how he made them. After a two-putt birdie on the par-5 15th, his tee shot grazed the edge of the cup in the front left portion of the green. From the woods, he went just over the back of the 17th green and chipped in from 35 feet. He didn't see until later how good his shot was into the 18th because he was in light rough short of the fairway bunker, unable to see the green but

knowing it was good from the roar of the crowd. The ball ran true to the cup and smacked into the middle of the pin with enough force to knock it backward a few inches. "I guess I should have pulled the flagstick," DeChambeau said.

He is not the only player to putt with the flagstick in the cup — allowed under the new Rules of Golf — just the only one to apply science to the decision.

Koepka shot his 66 while playing in the last group of the day, and not seeing very good golf alongside him. Jordan Spieth had to rely on his short game to salvage a 75, matching his highest score at Augusta.

Paul Casey, coming off a victory three weeks ago in Florida, failed to make a birdie in his round of 81.

Blinders on, Koepka played bogey-free in his first time at the Masters in two years. He missed last year recovering from a wrist injury that left him wondering if he would ever play again. Then he won a second straight U.S. Open, held off Woods to win the PGA Championship and has established himself as a major player.

He holed out from behind the green at No. 12, picked up birdies on the par 5s and rolled in a bending 20-footer in between on the 14th. Dustin Johnson and Ian Poulter were at 68, while Jon Rahm and Adam Scott were among those at 69.

Justin Rose, who returned to No. 1 in the world and was among the favorites this week because of his recent history at the Masters, opened with a 75.

"It's just a great test of golf to start out the first round of Masters," DeChambeau said. "And to be honest, it's great to sift through some of the really good players and maybe not so great players in this event right now. And look, it's not to say they are bad players. It's just it's very difficult out there and every aspect of your game has to be on point. So it's kind of nice, you can almost break away from the pack if you play well." □

U.S. advances to semifinals with 4-0 win over Japan



Hilary Knight of USA and Aoi Shiga of Japan in action during the IIHF Women's Ice Hockey World Championships quarterfinal match USA vs Japan, in Espoo, Finland on Thursday April 11, 2019.

Associated Press

ESPOO, Finland (AP) — Kendall Coyne Schofield scored a tournament-leading fifth goal Thursday to help the United States beat Japan 4-0 and advance to the semifinals of the women's world championship.

Cayla Barnes had a goal and an assist and Hilary Knight and Dani Cameranesi also scored for the Americans, who have won the last four world titles and seven of the last eight.

Maddie Rooney had 10 saves for her second shut-out of the tournament.

"It was a different game than we're used to," Knight

said. "Japan showed up and they're an extremely disciplined team. It's fun to see how well they've done in this tournament and continue to do. But a win's a win, and we got it."

Japan reached the knockout round for the first time since it was instituted in 2011, while the U.S. was playing in their first quarterfinal after a change in the format meant that the top finisher in the preliminary rounds no longer receives a bye to the semifinals.

The Americans, who finished with 53 shots, took 22 of them in the first period

and broke through when Knight scored on the rebound of Shelly Picard's shot with 3:12 remaining.

Cameranesi scored the second goal on the power play with 10:38 left in the second period, barely beating Knight to the puck on a rebound in front of the crease. Barnes and Coyne Schofield, who extended her point streak to five games, finished off the scoring in the third.

In another quarterfinal, Canada defeated Germany 5-0 as Blayre Turnbull scored a pair of goals. □

Blue Jackets stun Lightning with 3rd-period comeback

By The Associated Press
TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Seth Jones scored the go-ahead goal on the power play to cap Columbus' three-goal third period, and the Blue Jackets rallied to beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 4-3 in Game 1 of the teams' first-round Eastern Conference playoff series Wednesday night.

Jones made it 4-3 from the slot with 5:55 to play as the Blues Jackets erased a 3-0 deficit after the Lightning scored three times in the opening period.

With Columbus trailing 3-1 in the third, David Savard deked around Lightning defenseman Victor Hedman and scored 7:56 into the period to make it a one-goal game. Josh Anderson picked up a short-handed goal that tied it at 3 at 11:54.

Nick Foligno had the other goal for Columbus, and Sergei Bobrovsky ended up with 26 saves after struggling in the first period.

The Lightning, who matched the 1995-96 Detroit Red Wings for the most wins in a regular season with 62, got first-period goals from Alex Killorn, Anthony Cirelli and Yannick Gourde. Andrei Vasilevski stopped 22 shots.

Game 2 is Friday night in Tampa Bay.

ISLANDERS 4, PENGUINS 3, OT

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Josh Bailey scored on a rebound at 4:39 of overtime, leading the New York Islanders past the Pittsburgh Penguins in the opener of their Eastern Conference first-round playoff series.

Jordan Eberle had a goal and an assist, and Brock Nelson and Nick Leddy also scored for New York, which was opening a postseason series at home for the first time in 31 years. Robin Lehner stopped 41 shots.

Phil Kessel and Evgeni Malkin each had a goal and an assist, and Justin Schultz also scored for the Penguins. Matt Murray finished with 29 saves.

On the winning goal,

Mathew Barzal brought the puck into the offensive zone on a 2-on-1 break, faked in front to draw Murray out and sent a backhand shot that bounced off the left post, but Bailey was there to knock it in.

Game 2 is Friday night back at the Nassau Coliseum.

BLUES 2, JETS 1

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Tyler Bozak scored with 2:05 left in the third period to give the St. Louis Blues the victory in Game 1 of the Western Conference opening-round playoff series.

Pat Maroon sent a backhand pass from behind the net out to Bozak in the slot, and Bozak's quick shot

went by Winnipeg's Connor Hellebuyck for the go-ahead goal.

David Perron also scored for St. Louis early in the third, and Jordan Binnington made 24 saves.

Patrik Laine scored late in the first period and Hellebuyck stopped 24 shots for the Jets, who host Game 2 on Friday.

STARS 3, PREDATORS 2

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Rookie Miro Heiskanen scored two goals in his first postseason game, and the Dallas Stars beat the Predators in Game 1 of their first-round Western Conference series.

Heiskanen became the eighth rookie teenage de-



Columbus Blue Jackets defenseman Seth Jones (3) celebrates his goal against the Tampa Bay Lightning with defenseman Zach Werenski (8) and center Matt Duchene (95) during the third period of Game 1 of an NHL Eastern Conference first-round hockey playoff series Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

fenseman in NHL history to score a goal in their first career playoff game and the first since Adam Larson with New Jersey on May 1, 2012, against Philadelphia, according to NHL Stats. He also became the third-youngest with a multi-

goal game and the youngest in franchise history with a postseason goal at 19 years, 266 days. Mats Zuccarello also scored, helping Dallas continue its success from the regular season in Nashville, where the Stars won twice. □

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Orchid Casino
Located at Riu Antillas as formerly The Westin Resort.

Altuve powers Astros to first-ever sweep of Yankees

By The Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Jose Altuve hit two homers, Carlos Correa homered with three RBIs and the Houston Astros completed their first sweep of the New York Yankees with an 8-6 win Wednesday night.

The Astros needed late-game comebacks to win the first two games of the series but used a four-run fifth inning to break the finale open and held on for their sixth straight win despite a big eighth inning by the Yankees.

It's the first time since 2004 the Astros have swept a homestand of at least two series. They beat the Athletics three times this weekend before the Yankees arrived.

Altuve, who has homered in three straight games, hit his first one off James Paxton (1-2) to tie it at 1 in the first inning after Brett Gardner hit a leadoff homer for New York.

The Astros were up by 1 with no outs in the fifth inning when Altuve connected off Paxton again. The towering shot clanged off the light pole atop the wall in left field to make it 4-2.

A single by Michael Brantley chased Paxton, who was replaced by Tommy Kahnle. He was greeted by a two-run home run by Correa that extended Houston's lead to 6-2. Houston made it 7-2 on an RBI single by Jake Marisnick with two outs in the inning.

Houston starter Collin McHugh (2-1) allowed four hits and two runs while striking out nine in six innings for his second straight win.

MARINERS 6, ROYALS 5

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Mitch Haniger hit a tie-breaking homer with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting Seattle over Kansas City after Whit Merrifield extended his hitting streak to a Royals-record 31 games. Merrifield's RBI bunt single in the seventh tied it at 5 and moved him past Hall of Famer George Brett for the franchise mark.

Kansas City dropped to 2-9 with its ninth straight loss. Haniger took Brad Boxberger (0-2) deep, making



Houston Astros second baseman Jose Altuve (27) watches his second home run during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in Houston. Associated Press

Seattle 12-2 following an offseason roster overhaul. The Mariners and the 2002 Cleveland Indians are the only teams since 1908 to homer in each of their first 14 games. The Mariners have 34 homers, tied with the 2000 St. Louis Cardinals for most ever through 14 games. Seattle has scored at least five runs 13 times.

Anthony Swarzak (1-0) got two outs in the eighth and Roenis Elias worked out of a bases-loaded jam for his second save.

Seattle's Jay Bruce, tied for the AL lead with seven homers, left in the fourth with tightness in his left Achilles tendon.

ANGELS 4, BREWERS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Justin Bour hit a two-run single in a four-run third inning and Los Angeles beat Milwaukee for its sixth straight victory.

The Angels, who played without star outfielder Mike Trout, improved to 7-6 after losing five of their first six games. Trout strained his right groin during Tuesday's win but said he hopes to be available for this weekend's

series in Chicago against the Cubs.

Bour is batting only .154 in his first season with the Angels but had a solid series against the Brewers. He was 3 for 10 with a home run and four RBIs as Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep.

The Brewers were swept for the first time since the series before last year's All-Star break, when they dropped a five-game set at Pittsburgh (July 12-15). It is only the second regular-season series in its last 17 that Milwaukee has lost.

Jaime Barria (1-0), called up from Triple-A earlier in the day, allowed one run in 2 2/3 innings of relief. Hansel Robles earned his first save.

Brandon Woodruff (1-1) gave up four runs and four hits in six innings with seven strikeouts. Christian Yelich had two hits and drove in both Milwaukee runs.

RAYS 9, WHITE SOX 1

CHICAGO (AP) — Tommy Pham homered twice and extended his on-base streak to a club record 45 games, leading Tampa

Bay to its first series sweep in Chicago.

Austin Meadows had a single, double, home run and three RBIs for the Rays, who outscored Chicago 24-7 over three games. Tampa Bay won its four straight game and the AL East-leading Rays improved to 10-3, their best start since 2010.

Chicago lost its fifth consecutive game and at 3-8 is off to its worst opening since 1997.

Reynaldo Lopez (0-2) fell behind 3-0 within 18 pitches.

Meadows was 7 for 10 in the series with two homers, seven RBIs and four runs.

Acquired with Meadows from Pittsburgh last summer, Tampa Bay starter Tyler Glasnow (3-0) struck out a career-high 11 in six innings. Meadows allowed two hits in six shutout innings, lowering his ERA to 0.53 in three starts.

ATHLETICS 10, ORIOLES 3

BALTIMORE (AP) — Oakland slugger Khris Davis homered twice and had three hits, Baltimore's Chris Davis extended his record

hitless streak to 50 at-bats and the Athletics beat the Orioles.

Chad Pinder, Matt Chapman and Jurickson Profar also homered for Oakland, which can take the four-game series Thursday.

Chris Davis entered as a pinch-hitter in the ninth and flied out to center. He's 0 for 29 this season and hasn't gotten a hit since Sept. 14. Oakland starter Frankie Montas (2-1) allowed three runs and three hits with three strikeouts and a walk over six innings.

Trey Mancini and Rio Ruiz each homered for the rebuilding Orioles, who have lost six of seven and fell two games below .500 for the first time this season.

Pinder provided the early lead with a solo homer in the second off Dan Straily (0-1). The A's increased the lead to 3-0 an inning later when Chapman, who went 3 for 4, had an RBI double and scored on a single by Davis.

TIGERS 4, INDIANS 1

DETROIT (AP) — Trevor Bauer allowed home runs to Niko Goodrum and John Hicks, who powered Detroit over Cleveland for the Tigers' sixth win in seven games.

Bauer (1-1) gave up four runs and 10 hits in 5 2/3 innings for the Indians. He had allowed one run and one hit in his first two starts. Miguel Cabrera singled with two outs in the first, and Goodrum sent the next pitch over the right-field wall.

Hicks homered leading off the sixth for a 3-1 lead, Gordon Beckham doubled with one out, and Josh Harrison singled on a bouncer up the middle to chase Bauer.

Matt Boyd (1-1) allowed one run and four hits in six innings with six strikeouts that raised his total to 29 in 17 1/3 innings over three starts. Shane Greene, Detroit's sixth pitcher, got three straight outs for his eighth save in eight appearances, ending Cleveland's five-game winning streak. He became the first big leaguer with eight saves in his team's first 12 games. □

Machado hits go-ahead homer as Padres beat Giants 3-1

By The Associated Press
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Manny Machado put San Diego ahead with his third home run of the season in a win over San Francisco. Signed to a \$300 million, 10-year contract, Machado broke a 1-1 tie in the sixth inning with an opposite-field drive to right on a fast-ball from Dereck Rodríguez (1-2). Machado went 1 for 4 and is hitting .244 with six RBIs.

Wil Myers added a run-scoring single in the ninth off Will Smith, and the Padres won for the fifth time in seven games.

Nick Margevicius (1-1) got his first major league win. Making his third start, the 23-year-old left-hander allowed one run and five hits in six innings with no walks and six strikeouts, including his last four hitters. He retired his first nine batters before a home run by Kevin Pillar, who has nine RBIs in his last three games. Right-handed hitters were 1 for 27 against Margevicius before the homer.

Kirby Yates pitched the ninth to remain perfect in seven save chances and finish a seven-hitter.

CARDINALS 7, DODGERS 2

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Yadier Molina and Marcell Ozuna homered, Jack Flaherty tossed six effective innings and St. Louis beat Los Angeles.

The Cardinals have won four in a row and will try to sweep the four-game series Thursday. They have outscored their opponents 19-6 during the winning streak.

Max Muncy and Joc Pederson homered for the Dodgers, who have lost three straight after a five-game winning streak.

Paul DeJong had three hits and drove in a run with a triple in the sixth. DeJong extended his career-best hitting streak to 11 games. He is tied with San Francisco's Brandon Crawford for the longest current streak in the National League.

Flaherty (1-0) gave up three hits and one run in

his 99-pitch effort. He struck out eight and did not walk a batter. He has permitted one run over 11 innings in his last two starts.

Molina, who drove in three runs, homered off Kenta Maeda (2-1) in the sixth to push the lead to a 5-1. Ozuna, who had three hits, added a two-run drive in the eighth.

RANGERS 5, DIAMONDBACKS 2

PHOENIX (AP) — Lance Lynn struck out nine over six solid innings, Hunter Pence homered into the Chase Field swimming pool and Texas rallied to beat Arizona after being held without a hit for five innings.

Lynn (1-1) pitched four-hit ball to help the Rangers end a four-game skid. They overcame an excellent start from Diamondbacks lefty Robbie Ray, who struck out 10 and allowed two hits and a run over five innings.

Andrew Chafin (0-1) pitched out of a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the sixth but was charged with a run an inning later.

Logan Forsythe drove in two for the Rangers, who scored two key runs in the ninth off reliever Matt Andriese.

Jose Leclerc, who blew a save chance and a two-run lead Tuesday, loaded the bases with no outs in the bottom of the inning. Leclerc walked Jarrod Dyson to make it 5-2, but Kyle Bird worked out of the jam for his first career save.

NATIONALS 15, PHILLIES 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jeremy Hellickson pitched three-hit ball over six innings, Matt Adams drove in four runs and Washington routed Philadelphia.

One night after wasting a five-run lead in a 10-6 loss in 10 innings, the Phillies were flat. Bryce Harper was 0 for 2 with a walk against his former team, and an offense that was averaging 6.3 runs per game got shut down by four pitchers.

Hellickson (1-0) struck out six in his first start this season. He was Philadelphia's

opening day starter in 2016-17.

Phillies outfielder Aaron Altherr struck out Brian Dozier and Yan Gomes while allowing one run in the ninth. Nationals reliever Trevor Rosenthal retired a batter for the first time this season after allowing his first 10 to reach safely. He walked a hitter before striking out Andrew Knapp. Rosenthal then walked two more to load the bases. He gave up a run on a groundout, but Altherr flied out to end it.

The Nationals jumped on Nick Pivetta (1-1) for three runs in the first and kept piling on. They outscored the Phillies 24-1 in the final 15 innings over two games.

PIRATES 5, CUBS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Jordan Lyles struck out 10 in crisp six innings to tie a career high, Francisco Cervelli and Starling Marte homered off Yu Darvish, and Pittsburgh topped Chicago.

Lyles (1-0) allowed three hits and was sharp again in his second start, with Jason Heyward's solo shot in the fifth accounting for the lone run against him. The right-hander walked only one as Pittsburgh bounced back from a 10-0 drubbing in the Cubs' home opener Monday to win for the fifth time in six games.

Heyward had three hits and Javier Baez drove in run with a double in the eighth, but Felipe Vazquez got the final five outs for his third save in as many chances. Darvish (0-2) and the Cubs (3-8) continued to struggle on a 40-degree night at Wrigley Field with the wind blowing in from center field at 20 mph.

METS 9, TWINS 6

NEW YORK (AP) — Jake Odorizzi and Minnesota's bullpen suddenly went wild, allowing seven straight batters to reach base despite not hitting a single fair ball and letting Noah Syndergaard and New York stroll past the Twins.

One day after the teams set a Citi Field record by totaling 10 home runs in the Twins' 14-8 romp, the Mets



San Diego Padres' Manny Machado celebrates after hitting a solo home run against the San Francisco Giants during the sixth inning of a baseball game in San Francisco, Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

Associated Press

barely had to swing to build a big lead.

A startling stretch that kept snowballing saw Odorizzi, newly promoted reliever Andrew Vasquez and Trevor Hildenberger combine to walk six and hit a batter with a pitch without getting an out. At one point, the Twins threw 21 pitches — 19 missed the strike zone, many of them bouncing or sailing all over.

Wilson Ramos grounded a two-run single that capped the crazy six-run rally in the fifth inning. The Mets could've scored more, but Jeff McNeil was picked off third after hesitating on a bases-loaded pitch that skittered to the backstop.

Syndergaard (1-1) had permitted just two hits in taking a 9-1 lead into the eighth, and was pulled after giving up a single, double and triple to begin the inning. It had already been a strange season for Odorizzi (0-2) — he struck out 11 against Cleveland, then got only two outs while being tagged by Philadelphia

— before this bizarre start.

REDS 2, MARLINS 1

CINCINNATI (AP) — Jose Iglesias led off the eighth inning with a tying homer — only Cincinnati's second hit of the game — and Jesse Winker connected one out later, rallying the Reds to a victory over Miami.

After dropping eight straight, the Reds (3-8) have taken the first two games against Miami by hitting seven homers. They hit five during a 14-0 victory Tuesday that ended the long slide.

The Reds managed only Matt Kemp's single through the first seven innings and were facing their fifth shut-out of the season before pulling off the late rally. Iglesias hit his first homer of the season off Drew Steckenrider (0-2) to tie it, and Winker put the Reds up with his second homer in two games. Amir Garrett (1-0) went 1 2/3 innings. Raisel Iglesias struck out the side in the ninth for his first save, completing a combined three-hitter. □

Warriors start playoff road, without LeBron there at the end

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

The Golden State Warriors are set to begin their quest for a third straight title, and this time it's up to someone else to try to stop them.

With LeBron James gone to the West and this year gone entirely from the post-season, the Eastern Conference headquarters for the NBA Finals won't be in his home for the first time since 2010.

He played for the title for eight straight years, which may have been great for the TV ratings but lately wasn't much good for the competition. The Warriors swept Cleveland last year after winning 4-1 in 2017.

Teams are lining up to seize his old spot atop the East, all capable of providing the intrigue that was absent the last couple years. There's Milwaukee, with Giannis Antetokounmpo in position to exit June fully atop the NBA with a title and an MVP award.

Or Toronto, humiliated by the Cavaliers in the last two years but armed now with a former NBA Finals MVP in Kawhi Leonard.

It could be Philadelphia, with Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons anchoring perhaps the most talented starting five outside of the Bay Area.

And don't forget Boston, the presumptive East favorite in the preseason that can still live up to expectations.

The best player is gone, but maybe things will be better. "I think the parity and the



Golden State Warriors' Kevin Durant (35) high-fives Stephen Curry (30) after Curry made a 3-point shot against the Cleveland Cavaliers during the second half of an NBA basketball game Friday, April 5, 2019, in Oakland, Calif. The Warriors won 120-114.

Associated Press

competition in the East, and not knowing and everyone having a sincere chance maybe in the East that did not, when not you look between Toronto, Boston, Philadelphia," TNT analyst Chris Webber said. "All of those story lines, new young stars that's coming in."

The long road to get to the finals begins Saturday with four games, including the top-seeded Warriors against the Los Angeles Clippers in the West. No. 2 Denver faces No. 7 San Antonio in the other West opener, while No. 3 Phila-

delphia meets No. 6 Brooklyn, and No. 2 Toronto takes on No. 7 Orlando in the East.

On Sunday, the overall No. 1 seed Bucks face No. 8 Detroit, and No. 4 Boston hosts No. 5 Indiana in the East. In the West, No. 3 Portland and No. 6 Oklahoma City meet in a matchup of Northwest Division rivals, and No. 4 Houston and No. 5 Utah square off in the opener of a series between two of the strongest teams in the second half of the season.

It's the start of postseason that looks different far

beyond just the absence of James for the first time since 2005.

It includes Denver, in the playoffs for the first time since 2013. Brooklyn is a playoff team for the first time since 2015 and Orlando is back for the first time since 2012.

The Warriors, of course, haven't just been going to the postseason every year, but getting all the way to the finals once they do. They've done that four straight years, winning three of them, and with a strong finish after some occasional lapses surged to

the best record in the West. Still, this playoff path could provide them plenty of obstacles. The Warriors may need to get by scoring champion James Harden and the Rockets, who took them to a seventh game last year in the conference finals, just to get back to that round this time.

"It doesn't matter who you play in the playoffs, you're going to get tested. Everybody's good," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said.

Get out of the West, and the Warriors may have to then get on a plane. They had home-court advantage in all four finals against Cleveland, but Milwaukee and Toronto both finished with better records and would host Games 1 and 2 if they win the East.

And there could be the distractions about their future, with Kevin Durant and Klay Thompson able to become free agents this summer.

The Warriors wouldn't be alone when dealing with that. Toronto (Leonard), Philadelphia (Jimmy Butler and Tobias Harris) and Boston (Kyrie Irving) all will be trying to win a title with players who could then leave them.

But those are issues for July. First, it's all about just getting to June.

"It's a great feeling," Bucks All-Star Khris Middleton said. "Playoffs don't always come around. I've been a part of that couple years but it's been a great season so far. I know guys been itching to get to this first playoff game." □



Carmelo Anthony, Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade, Houston Rockets guard Chris Paul and Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, from left, pose for a photograph on the court after Wade's final NBA basketball game, against the Brooklyn Nets on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

LeBron, Carmelo, Chris Paul courtside for Wade's last game

NEW YORK (AP) — Dwyane Wade had some superstar fans on hand for his final NBA game.

LeBron James, Chris Paul and Carmelo Anthony were all sitting courtside in Brooklyn on Wednesday night to watch Miami's game against the Nets.

Wade punctuated his career with one last triple-double, finishing with 25

points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists in a 113-94 loss to Brooklyn.

The four players are close friends and former teammates on the U.S. Olympic team.

Wade went over to the corner where they were sitting and hugged each before starting his final game before retirement.

James told Fox Sports

Southeast that it was important for them to be there because their friendship goes beyond basketball.

"CP played last night, we had our last regular-season game last night and Melo's right here in New York so we kind of made the plan, made the decision to come up here," James said. "Listen, we couldn't miss D-Wade's last game." □

Pistons top Knicks 115-89, clinch final playoff spot in East

NEW YORK (AP) — Luke Kennard scored 27 points, Reggie Jackson had 21 and Andre Drummond added 20 points and 18 rebounds as the Detroit Pistons locked up the Eastern Conference's final playoff spot with a 115-89 victory over the New York Knicks on Wednesday night. The Pistons will face the top-seeded Milwaukee Bucks in the opening round. Jackson scored 14 points and Drummond had 10 points and seven rebounds in the first quarter as the Pistons never trailed and led by as many as 16 points. Neither Jackson nor Drummond played in the fourth quarter. Wayne Ellington added 12 points for the Pistons, who hadn't made the playoffs since the 2015-16 season, the last time they finished over .500 (44-38). Before, Detroit hadn't made the postseason since 2008-09. John Jenkins led the Knicks with 16 points, and Kadeem Allen added 13. Henry Elenson scored 12 points, and Mitchell Robinson and

Isaiah Hicks each had 11. **TRAIL BLAZERS 136, KINGS 131**
PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Rookie Anfernee Simons scored a career-high 37 points in his first start of the season and Portland secured the No. 3 seed in the Western Conference using just six players in a win over Sacramento. The Blazers have won 14 of 17 games en route to their sixth straight trip to the playoffs. Portland will open the postseason against the Oklahoma City Thunder, who finished in sixth. Marvin Bagley III had 20 points to lead the Kings, who lost their 11th straight game in Portland. **CLIPPERS 143, JAZZ 137, OT**
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Montrezl Harrell scored 24 points to lead seven players in double figures and the Clippers beat Utah in overtime, snapping a three-game skid to close the regular season. Ivica Zubac added 22 points and 11 rebounds and Patrick Beverley had 14 points in his return from



Detroit Pistons guard Langston Galloway (9) goes to the basket past New York Knicks guard John Jenkins (30) and forward Luke Kornet (2) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Associated Press

injury. The Clippers' losing streak had already dropped them from the sixth seed to No. 8 in the playoffs, where they'll open against the defending champion Golden State Warriors. Grayson Allen led Utah with a career-high 40 points. The rookie made 13 of 14 free throws and five 3-pointers, but was limited to four points in overtime. The Jazz earned the fifth seed and they'll play No. 4 Houston in the first round. **THUNDER 127, BUCKS 116**

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Russell Westbrook got his 34th triple-double of the season and Oklahoma City beat Milwaukee to lock up the sixth seed in the Western Conference playoffs. Oklahoma City played without injured Paul George, but Westbrook, Jerami Grant and Dennis Schroder led a hot-shooting effort from 3-point range. Westbrook had 15 points, 17 assists and 11 rebounds. He moved into a tie with Magic Johnson for second place on the career triple-

double list with 138. Schroder had 32 points, and Grant added a career-best 28. The Bucks had already clinched the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference and rested star Giannis Antetokounmpo and some other key players. Khris Middleton scored 21 points in 17 minutes. Tim Frazier scored a career-high 29 points and D.J. Wilson added a career-high 18 while grabbing 17 rebounds. Rookie Bonzie Colson started and scored 21 points. □

SACRAMENTO KINGS

Continued from Page 17

Divac said he had been contemplating the decision to change coaches for a while and ultimately made it after the team stumbled to the finish with a 9-16 record after the All-Star break. The poor stretch run left Sacramento with a 39-43 record, nine games out of a playoff spot after being tied for the eighth spot in the West heading into the final game before the break. The Kings had their most wins since having a 44-38 record in coach Rick Adelman's final season in 2005-06. That ended a run of eight straight playoff berths and Sacramento hasn't been back to the postseason since for the NBA's longest active drought. "After the All-Star break, I felt very confident we'd be

in the race and we were in the race," Divac said. "Unfortunately, we fell short." Divac made the move official just hours after he was given an extension through the 2022-23 season by owner Vivek Ranadivé. Divac took over as GM before the 2015-16 season and helped bring in some of the key pieces that have led to the improvement this year, including guards Buddy Hield and De'Aaron Fox and big men Marvin Bagley III, Willie Cauley-Stein and Harry Giles. Divac also made a trade this season to acquire forward Harrison Barnes from Dallas in hopes of making a playoff push but the team faltered down the stretch. "Vlade has been vital to what we are building here and I am so pleased to announce his extension," Ranadivé said. "Throughout

his entire career, Vlade is someone who has always made those around him better, both on and off the court. I look forward to our bright future ahead." Joerger was the ninth coach since Adelman was fired in 2006 with none able to post a winning record or a playoff berth. In fact, since moving to Sacramento before the 1985-86 season, the only winning seasons for the Kings came in Adelman's eight seasons at the helm highlighted by a trip to the Western Conference final in 2002. Divac is now counting on coach No. 10 being the one that can get the team back to the level it had under Adelman, when the Kings were a contender for several years and played an entertaining brand of basketball. "The next level is to be a team that is go-



In this April 7, 2019, file photo, Sacramento Kings head coach David Joerger, right, reacts to a call as referee Leroy Richardson runs down court during the second half of an NBA basketball game, in Sacramento, Calif.

Associated Press

ing to be a playoff team and down the road a contender," Divac said. "I think our kids are very talented.

We have to believe in them and give them a chance to take advantage of their work and talent." □

Live online TV, once a bargain, is getting more expensive

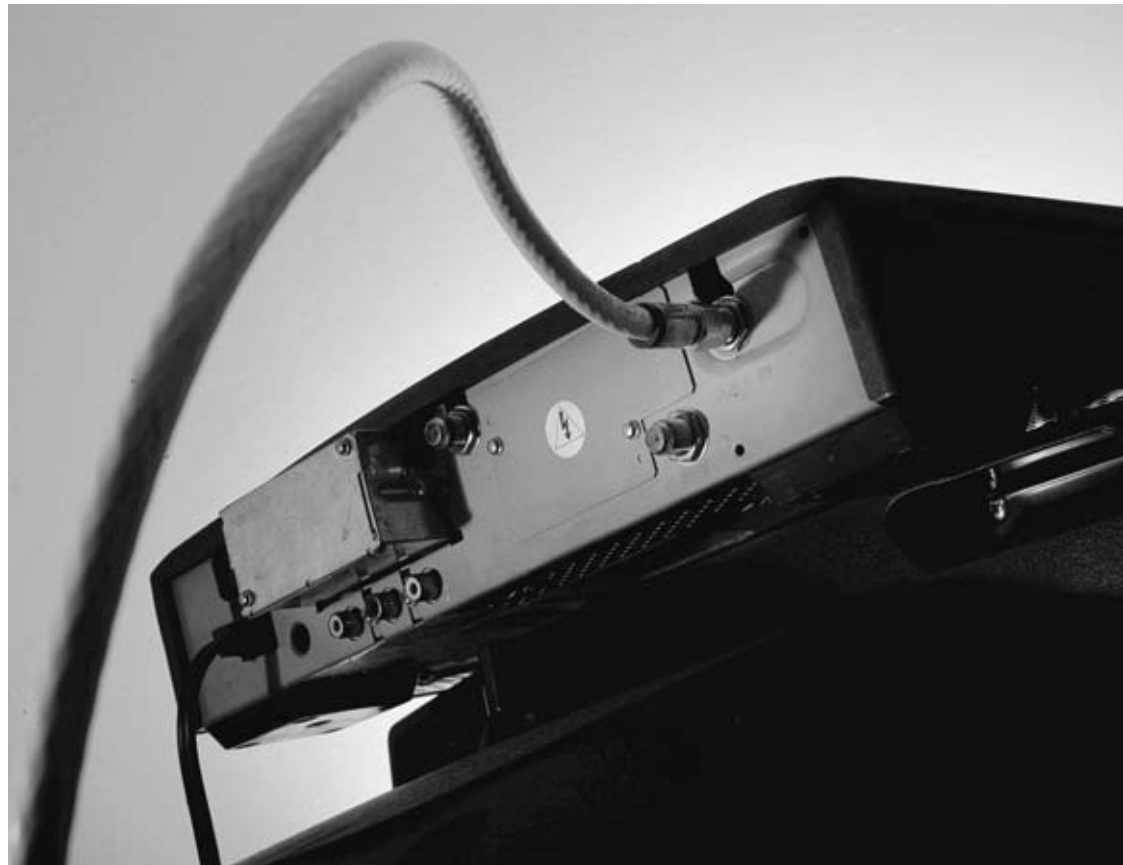
By TALI ARBEL

NEW YORK (AP) — If you signed up to stream live TV in hopes of saving money over traditional cable, you may be in for a rude surprise.

Live online-TV providers like YouTube TV, DirecTV Now and Hulu with Live TV lured users with digital "skinny bundles" that were cheaper than cable. Now, many are raising prices. The latest is Google's YouTube TV, which is increasing its monthly fee to \$50. It launched at \$35 and has raised prices as it added more channels.

The first of this crop of TV services was Dish Networks' Sling TV in 2015. Its most attractive feature was price, since it offered a handful of popular, live TV channels for \$20 a month. A string of other companies announced similar services in the years that followed, many priced from \$30-\$40 a month. YouTube TV, Hulu Live, AT&T's DirecTV Now and others were far cheaper than a traditional cable bundle, which costs about \$100.

Cable executives derided the online TV packages as unrealistically cheap, but they have grown in popularity as cord-cutting picked



This May 30, 2007, file photo shows a cable box on top of a television in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

up. They have racked up more than 7 million users, according to MoffettNathanson Research, helping offset the declines in traditional TV customers for entertainment companies like Disney, Comcast's NBCUniversal and Viacom.

But that bump may be petering out. DirecTV Now lost customers for the first time in the fourth quarter after

AT&T canned big discounts. MoffettNathanson noted that growth slowed for the online-TV providers overall.

Price increases starting last year — just like you get with your cable package — may be to blame. This year has brought another round of price hikes, often as the bundles fatten up and more closely resemble

traditional TV packages.

That could turn still more people off, particularly as subscriber fatigue sets in with a slew of new streaming services coming from Disney, AT&T, Comcast and others.

But the problem for the TV services is that programming costs go up every year, so they're passing those on. "At the end of the

day, they have no choice but to keep raising prices," said MoffettNathanson's Craig Moffett. If that means a steep drop-off in demand from users, the entertainment companies could eventually feel the bite.

AT&T, intent on profitability, announced a \$10 price increase for DirecTV Now in March; it's now \$50 a month for the cheapest tier, even after it dropped some popular networks that it didn't own. (Some of them, including MTV, BET and Comedy Central, returned a few weeks later after AT&T resolved a dispute with Viacom.) It also raised prices in 2018. Hulu raised the price for its live-TV service in February, by \$5, to \$45. Sony's PlayStation Vue raised prices by \$5 last year.

"Pretty much all of them have come to market from day one saying we're cheap cheap cheap," said Frost & Sullivan analyst Dan Rayburn. "It's no longer that much cheaper than cable."

Dish has been more of a holdout. Last year, it raised the price of Sling's cheapest package by \$5 to \$25, leaving its fatter bundle alone at \$40. It's also currently offering a big promotion. □



In this Dec. 15, 2016, file photo, the Yahoo logo appears on a smartphone in Frankfurt, Germany.

Associated Press

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Nearly 200 million people who had sensitive information snatched from their Yahoo accounts will receive two years of free credit-monitoring services

and other potential restitution in a legal settlement valued at \$117.5 million.

The deal revises an earlier agreement struck last October, only to be rejected by U.S. District Court Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose, Cali-

Yahoo to pay \$117.5M in latest settlement of massive breach

fornia. The value of that settlement had been pegged at \$50 million, but Koh questioned the calculations.

A more detailed breakdown used in the revised settlement drove up the estimated cost. The money will be paid by Yahoo's current owner, Verizon, and Altaba, a holdover from Yahoo's past that still owns a stake in Chinese internet company Alibaba Group worth billions of dollars.

If approved, the settlement will become part of the financial fallout from digital burglaries that stole personal information from about 3 billion Yahoo accounts in 2013 and 2014 — believed

to be the biggest data breach ever.

And now the \$117.5 million settlement could become largest amount ever doled out for a data breach, a recurring problem in an increasingly digitally driven world. It eclipses a \$115 million settlement that Koh approved last year to cover 79 million people who had personal information stolen in a 2015 breach at health insurer Anthem Inc.

Yahoo didn't begin to disclose the extent of its security breakdown until 2016 amid an FBI investigation that eventually linked some of the hacking to Russia. The revelations brought a

mortifying end to the reign of Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer, eventually prompting the company to reduce its selling price to Verizon by \$350 million.

Verizon has since written off much of the nearly \$4.5 billion price for the Yahoo acquisition in sign of the eroding value of that business. Lawyers representing the Yahoo accountholders estimate about 194 million people in U.S. and Israel will be eligible to make claims, according to court documents. Those people collectively may have had about 896 million of the Yahoo accounts hit in the break-ins. □

Top IMF official warns global economy facing various threats

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the 189-nation International Monetary Fund said Thursday the world is facing a time of high uncertainty with 70% of the global economy caught in a growth slowdown that could be worsened by self-inflicted wounds such as unnecessary trade battles. IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said that while her agency is forecasting a rebound in growth next year that forecast is "precarious and subject to downside risks" with rising trade tensions a top threat.

Trade flows have been shaken by the Trump administration's efforts to force China to stop stealing technology and coercing foreign companies to hand over trade secrets.

The trade war between the United States and China, the world's two biggest economies, has disrupted supply chains and shaken business confidence and contributed to a deterioration in the global outlook.

That slowdown in global prospects and what to do



International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde speaks at a news conference, during the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings in Washington, Thursday, April 11, 2019.

Associated Press

about it was expected to be the key agenda item when global finance officials hold meetings over the next three days in Washington.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell will represent the United States at those dis-

cussions revolving around the spring meetings of the IMF and its sister lending institution, the World Bank.

Speaking at an opening news conference, Lagarde said when officials were gathering a year ago for the spring finance meetings, 75% of the global economy was enjoying

a synchronized upswing. Now, she said, 70% of the global economy is enduring slower growth.

While she said the IMF is forecasting a rebound to stronger growth next year, numerous risks could derail that forecast. She said those include unresolved trade tensions, high debt

burdens for individual countries and corporations and political missteps such as a botched exit by Britain from the European Union.

"We are at a delicate moment," Lagarde said.

The IMF, citing heightened trade tensions, this week downgraded its forecast for growth this year in the United States, Europe, Japan and the world overall. The fund's economists expect global growth to decelerate from 3.6% last year to 3.3% in 2019 -- tied with 2016 as the weakest performance since the recession year 2009.

Growth in world trade is expected to expand just 3.4% — a sharp slowdown from the 4% trade growth the IMF had expected in its previous forecast in January and down from actual growth of 3.8% in trade last year.

At a separate news conference Thursday, David Malpass, the new president of the World Bank, said that the current slowdown in global growth is jeopardizing the fight against extreme poverty, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. □

Health care companies lead US stock indexes slightly lower

By ALEX VEIGA

Associate Press

Major U.S. stock indexes edged lower in afternoon trading Thursday, pulled down by a broad decline in health care companies.

Insurers UnitedHealth Group, Humana, Anthem and Cigna led the health sector decline, which outweighed gains in industrial stocks and banks. The market had been higher earlier in the day.

Fastenal led gains in industrial stocks after the company delivered better-than-expected quarterly results. Prudential Financial and Unum Group were among the gainers in the financial sector.

The modest slide gave back some of the ground the market won a day earlier, after minutes from the latest Federal Reserve meeting showed that the

majority of officials want to keep interest rates unchanged in 2019. Investors want the central bank to take a more laid-back approach to avoid triggering a market slump.

Corporate earnings are the next key catalyst for investors. Major banks, including Wells Fargo and JPMorgan Chase, will report their first-quarter results on Friday. Delta led a rally in airline stocks Wednesday after reporting solid results.

Investors are also keeping a close eye on international developments, including the European Union's deadline extension for Britain's departure. Britain now has until October 31 to develop a plan for its exit from the bloc.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index was down 0.2% as of 1:43 p.m. Eastern Time. The Dow Jones Indus-

trial Average fell 76 points, or 0.3%, to 26,080. The Nasdaq composite slid 0.3%.

Major European indexes were mostly higher.

NOT FEELING WELL: Several

Group fell 4.6%, Humana dropped 3.9%, Anthem lost 3.8% and Cigna gave up 3.4%.

POWER OUTAGE: Tesla slumped 3.2% following

a key battery plant expansion in the U.S. The stalled expansion follows Tesla's report earlier in April of a first-quarter slowdown in production and demand. □



Trader John Panin works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, April 11, 2019.

Associated Press

health insurers weighed on the market. UnitedHealth

news reports that the electric maker would hold off on

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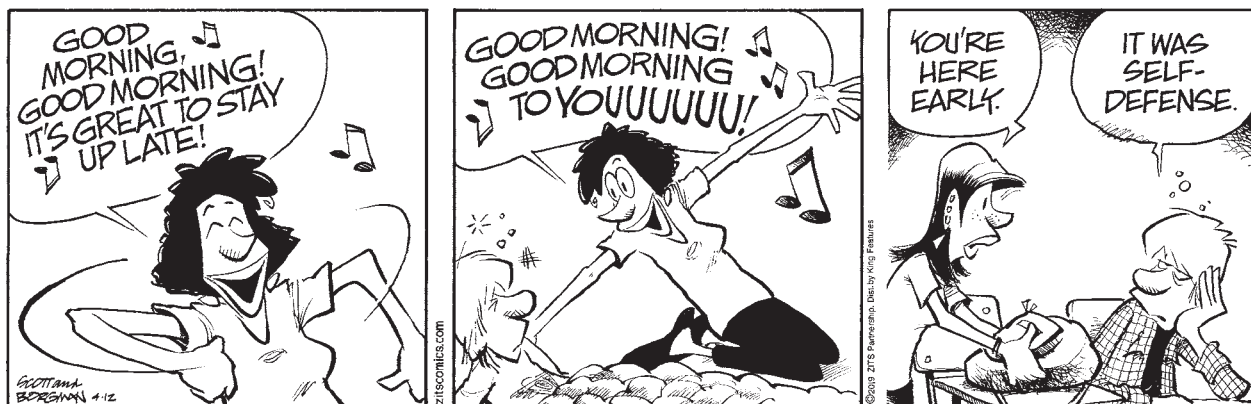
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

3					9			6
	5	9		7			4	
				6			7	
2				4				
	6	7				8	2	
				3				9
	4			8				
	8			1		5	9	
5			7					8

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

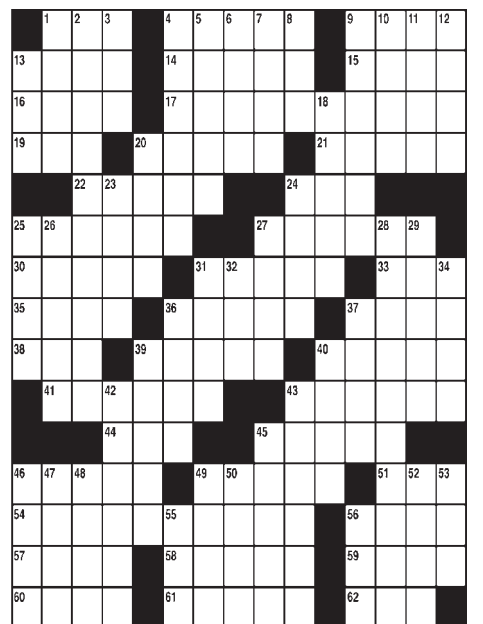
1	8	5	9	3	7	6	2	4
7	9	6	2	4	1	8	5	3
4	2	3	6	8	5	9	1	7
5	1	8	7	6	4	2	3	9
9	6	4	3	5	2	1	7	8
2	3	7	1	9	8	5	4	6
6	4	9	5	2	3	7	8	1
3	5	1	8	7	9	4	6	2
8	7	2	4	1	6	3	9	5

ACROSS

- 1 ___ down; make a note of
4 Syrup flavor
9 Failure
13 Asian desert
14 Reserved
15 ___ up; form a row
16 Ready, willing and ___
17 Disgust; aversion
19 Fraternity letter
20 Gave a job to
21 External
22 Magnificent
24 Took first place
25 Biblical book
27 Samples
30 "___ of Old Smokey"
31 Report card mark
33 Big kahuna, for short
35 Cool one's heels
36 Hollandaise, for one
37 ___ at; taunt
38 Give it ___; make an attempt
39 ___ mignon
40 Game of chance
41 "You __, you lose"
43 Exhaled audibly
44 Deli purchase
45 Buoyant wood
46 Means of communication
49 Follow stealthily
51 Eggy drink
54 Spreadable sausage
56 "___ in the Life"; Beatles song
57 Go ___; review
58 Shed crocodile tears
59 Bit of bacteria
60 Declare untrue
61 Famous; eminent
62 Sullivan & others

DOWN

- 1 Steve of Apple Inc.
2 Duty
3 Man's accessory
4 Singer Carey
5 On the ball



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/12/19

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

DOPE	OMEGA	ECHO
OARS	NOBEL	SHOW
CHIT	SUBMISSION	
SUN	PETS	HACKS
	CLOTH	ROY
SHEETS	WARSAW	
OASIS	MERIT	PIE
FUSS	LOWED	SPRY
ATE	WIDEN	SPREE
ESCAPE		STEEDS
	ADS	BLOWN
STARE	TRAP	TKO
LIBERATION		KIND
ARCS	REMIT	ICED
BESS	KEELS	MEWS

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4/12/19

- 42 Cantankerous
43 Like canned
45 Keep a cooking
46 Trudge
47 Bee colony
48 Hotpoint
49 Japanese
50 Horse's canter
52 Rowers' items
53 School
55 Actress
56 Grow old

How big should a clam get? Maine eyes new harvest rules

By **PATRICK WHITTLE**
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — The nation's clam haul is steadily dwindling, and a push to try to save it in the state with the largest industry is dividing harvesters, conservationists and scientists who question whether proposed new measures will help.

Maine is the country's leading producer of soft-shell clams, which are steamed or used to make New England staples such as fried clams and clam chowder. The harvest has fallen in recent years to the point where the nationwide haul for 2017 and '18 was the lowest for any two-year period in more than 60 years. In Maine, the shellfish business is challenged by growing populations of predators that eat clams and a declining number of clambers.

The Maine Legislature is set to consider a bill that would allow municipalities to establish their own minimum and maximum size limits for shellfish. Proponents, including presenting Democratic Rep. Joyce McCreight, said the change would allow towns to set stricter parameters than the state's minimum of 2 inches.

The new limits would allow towns to protect larger clams, which have the abil-



In this Sept. 2, 2016, file photo, a basket of clams sit in the water as Mike Suprin, of Rollinsford, N.H., calls it a day after filling his basket with softshell clams at Cape Porpoise in Kennebunkport, Maine.

Associated Press

ity to reproduce more as they get older and bigger, McCreight said.

"They can leave clams in the ground. Possibly, that would produce more seed and allow the clams to reproduce," she said, adding that increasing the harvest is "definitely the goal." McCreight's proposal is up for a public hearing Tuesday that clambers said would be well attended — but the harvesters aren't necessarily all on the same page about it.

Wendell Cressey, a clammer who lives in Harpswell and digs clams in Harpswell and Arrowsic, said the current statewide minimum standard of 2 inches is adequate.

"By leaving a clam until its

2 inches, it has a chance to seed out more clams, which makes a future," he said.

But Chad Coffin, a Freeport clammer who is president of the Maine Clammers Association, said it's a better idea to lower the minimum size to 1 1/2 inches. Protecting the largest clams makes sense, he said. But when a clammer discards a clam that is too small to be legally harvested, it runs the risk of being eaten by a predator before it reaches market size, Coffin said.

Both clambers agreed the state's harvest is in rough shape. "The biggest thing to understand is, overall, clam landings are terrible," Coffin said. □

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Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors

Richard Brooks
Jeancarlo Trinidad

Sales

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

Rachelle Danje
(rachelle.danje@cspnv.com)

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Cristian Soto Garcia
Pilar Flores
Juan Luis Pinto

Columnists

Anthony Croes
Joris Zantvoort
Louedska Maduro
Shanella Pantophlet
Steve Francees
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
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April 14
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These 'eggs' are spying on whooping cranes to boost survival



In this March 13, 2019 photo provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and taken by a trail cam, biologist Eva Szyszkoski uses brooms to fend off a pair of nesting whooping cranes, so biologist Sara Zimorski, right, can replace a data logging egg with the cranes' real egg in Jefferson Davis, La.

Associated Press

By JANET McCONNAUGHEY
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Scientists are using fake eggs to spy on whooping cranes in hopes of learning why some chicks die in the egg, while others hatch.

Data gathered by the spy eggs could help biologists in Louisiana and Canada preserve the endangered long-legged birds, which have made a tenuous rebound after dwindling almost to extinction in the 1940s.

"It's a fascinating way of spying on endangered

species' reproduction in a way that allows us to assist in the recovery," said Dr. Axel Moehrenschrager, the Calgary Zoo's director of conservation and science. The Calgary Zoo lent eight of the spy eggs, more properly known as "data loggers," to Louisiana researchers.

The Louisiana wildlife biologists swap the egg-shaped data loggers, which Moehrenschrager said are encased in a plastic polymer, for one of the two eggs that many cranes lay. The real eggs come to Audu-

bon Nature Institute's Species Survival Center in New Orleans, where they're incubated until they're nearly ready to hatch ... or not.

Then the biologists in Louisiana swap the real eggs back into the nests.

The electronic data loggers use infrared connections to transfer information to nearby computers. It's sent for analysis to scientists in Calgary, where the only remaining wild natural flock of whooping cranes is based.

Whoopers are the tallest birds and rarest cranes in North America. They stand about 5 feet (1.5 meters) tall, with black-tipped wings that span nearly 7 feet (2.1 meters).

Overhunting and habitat loss cut their numbers to 21 in the 1940s, but with some help from humans the number had risen to about 850 at the end of 2018.

Louisiana is home to 74

whooping cranes in the wild.

"We've got some pairs that haven't been successful, and we want to see if we could see what might be going on with them," said Sara Zimorski, a biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

"In the bigger picture, we don't know a lot about wild nest incubation," she said. The new information may help improve provisions for captive pairs and settings for incubators.

Richard Dunn, curator at the Species Survival Center, says he hopes to learn if he needs to tweak incubator settings to more closely mimic Louisiana's climate, which is hotter and damper than the northern settings where previous studies were done.

A researcher who's not affiliated with the Louisiana effort said those are entirely

reasonable aims. Scott A. Shaffer, a San José State University professor, has been working with data logger eggs since 2010 to study a variety of birds in a number of places. He said the tiny, low-power sensors that reorient tablet and smartphone displays as the devices are moved have helped drive technology that checks for egg turning, allowing second-by-second studies of eggs.

The whooping crane data logger eggs record temperature, humidity and position once a minute. They can also detect when eggs are turned — an important part of keeping developing birds healthy. They were developed by a team of Canadian and U.S. scientists who compared nests of captive whooping cranes and sandhill cranes at the Calgary Zoo's Devonian Wildlife Conservation Centre to incubators, hoping to improve the hatching rate of incubated eggs. Their study, published in 2012, helped people raising the cranes in Canada and the U.S. to adjust incubator temperature and humidity settings, Moehrenschrager said.

The Species Survival Center on New Orleans' west bank houses 36 of the 163 whooping cranes currently living in captivity, including 10 destined for a new facility under construction by the Dallas Zoo. None of the birds at Audubon has yet begun nesting, Dunn said.

Zimorski and fellow Louisiana wildlife biologist Phillip Vasseur put a few data loggers out last year to be sure the birds would tolerate the intrusion of eggs being swapped in and out.

Zimorski said the birds decide much of the wild deployment, since many this year are nesting in inaccessible swamps where biologists keep tabs on them through airplane flyovers.

Both Zimorski and Dunn said there's nowhere near enough data yet for any conclusions. "We need a couple more years so we can get additional pairs and some years of repeat data," Zimorski said. □



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Berlin show explores Nolde's complex relationship with Nazis

By GEIR MOULSON

BERLIN (AP) — A Berlin museum is opening an exhibition based on years of research into expressionist painter Emil Nolde that chips away at the remnants of his image as a victim of the Nazi regime.

Nolde, who died in 1956, was among the prominent artists whose work was condemned as "degenerate art" under Nazi rule. But he was also a Nazi party member and, as the exhibition presented Thursday at the Hamburger Bahnhof museum shows, an anti-Semite and believer in Nazi ideology who held out hopes of winning the regime's recognition even after he was banned in 1941 from exhibiting, selling and publishing. The show also explores Nolde's elevation as an artistic pioneer and Nazi victim after World War II. It closes with "Breakers," which hung for years in Chancellor Angela Merkel's office until Merkel recently returned it to Berlin's museum authority for the exhibition.

"Our view of Nolde will have to change, and our thinking about this artistic figure



People gather around the paintings 'Paradise Lost', right, and 'The Sinner', left, of Emil Nolde, during the press preview of an exhibition about the artist at the Hamburger Bahnhof museum in Berlin, Germany, Thursday, April 11, 2019.

Associated Press

will have to be a different one," museum director Udo Kittelmann told reporters. "It is only now obvious how systematically he ingratiated himself with Nazism and particularly its anti-Semitism."

The exhibition is the result of a research project that started in 2013. Historians

and curators Aya Soika and Bernhard Fulda were granted unrestricted access to archives containing more than 25,000 documents at the Nolde Foundation in Seebuell, near the Danish border, where the artist lived.

The exhibition includes documents from throughout

Nolde's career, including anti-Semitic letters from the artist dating back to before World War I. It explores his conviction that he was a misunderstood artistic genius and his claim that he was boycotted by a supposedly Jewish-dominated art scene.

Nolde was Heinrich Him-

mler's guest of honor at an event in 1933, months after Adolf Hitler took power, and positioned himself as a pioneer of pure "German" art in a 1934 memoir. In 1935, Essen's Museum Folkwang acquired more than 450 graphic works by Nolde.

In 1937, however, 48 Nolde works were taken from German museum collections to become part of the Nazis' traveling "degenerate art" exhibition. Nolde wrote to propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels asking him to end the "defamation" of his work and trumpeting his "fight against the foreign infiltration of German art." He did succeed in getting some works returned, and meanwhile produced a series of "Viking Paintings" more in tune with the tastes of the time.

Nolde, whose Nazi party membership has long been known, was exonerated in the post-war denazification process, largely because of his ban from exhibiting. His work later found a place in the offices of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and, more recently, Merkel. □

Shovels & Rope keep folk tradition alive

By RAGAN CLARK

Associated Press

Shovels & Rope, "By Blood" (Dualtone)

The traditions of folk and bluegrass style may seem all but dead — gone are the days of murder ballads, tunes written on horseback and songs yearning for life out west. Gone are those days, unless you are folk-rock duo Shovels & Rope.

"By Blood" is a 10-track album that stays true to the heritage of folk and bluegrass music in theme and style, while adding Shovels & Rope's own spin and a rockabilly edge.

The duo of Cary Ann Hearst and Michael Trent display a tightness on the album that transcends typical bandmate cohesion. Married for a decade, the two are perfectly in step on every track, filling the space be-

tween one another with Trent's gravelly voice and Hearst's coarse, yet salient vocals.

On the bluegrass and folk songwriting side, there's "Pretty Polly," "Hammer," "Mississippi Nuthin'" and "C'mon Utah!" All adhere to the story-telling style of the genre.

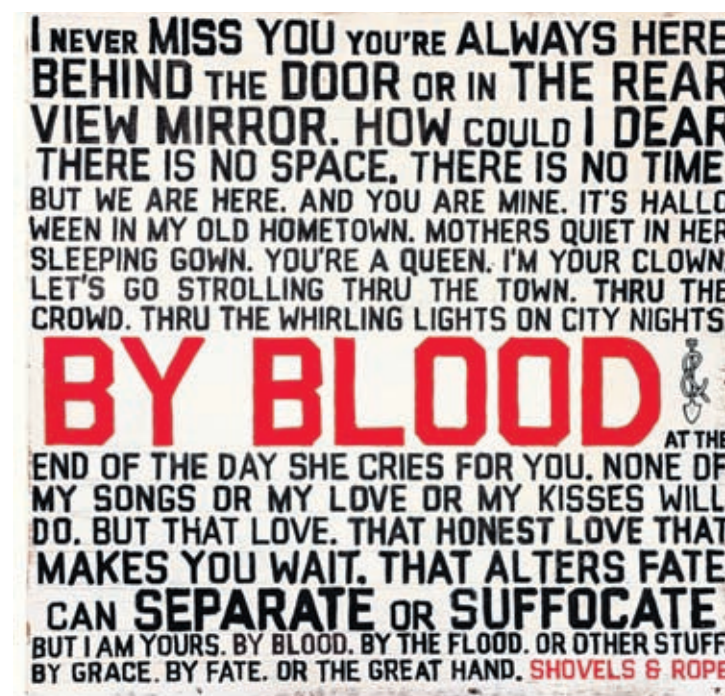
"C'mon Utah!" is a battle cry on horseback during a journey out west. "Pretty Polly" tells the tale of a woman he couldn't let go and couldn't let stay, so he "buried pretty Polly in a poor pathetic grave."

"Mississippi Nuthin'" is a cleverly honest ballad about a narrator down on luck, reminding a friend of what they've been through together. "Maybe I'm just the blue-collar version of you," the duo sings, "but I've got a plan that's gonna turn it

all around."

"Hammer" is a stomping, fiddle-infused labor song,

respecting the convention of country to honor hard work and perseverance.



This cover image released by Dualtone Music shows "By Blood," a release by Shovels & Rope.

Associated Press

"They shut my water off/ I've got a nasty cough/ But I'm out here every day with my hammer." With harmonica solos, thundering drums and energetic riffs, "By Blood" is an upbeat record that still makes time for somber moments. The songwriting on "Good Old Days" and "Carry Me Home" is honest and raw, from the former's self-loathing ("I hate myself a little more each day") to the latter's admission of desperation ("I'm no good when I'm alone/ I'm burned down to the bone").

While not everyone can relate to riding horseback to Colorado, there are themes of struggle, desperation and determination on the album that are universal. Times may be changing, but Shovels & Rope prove that folk themes still have a place. □

If you're not a superfan, 'Hellboy' is hell, boy

By MARK KENNEDY

Hellboy is back and he's got a dirty mouth and a man bun.

The third film in the comic adaptation franchise has a new director, a new writer and a new look — led by a swashbuckling hellion who uses expletives and wears one of the most ridiculed hair styles in decades.

"Hellboy" is a reboot of artist and writer Mike Migno-

la's fantasy world that rather rudely brushes aside the first two films as if they never existed. It's like your new girlfriend blithely tossing out all the accumulated stuff in your medicine cabinet. It even ignores in its title that we've already had a "Hellboy." Out is director Guillermo del Toro, a monster maker of epic proportions. Out is the original Hellboy, Ron Perlman. Out is the PG-



This image released by Lionsgate shows, from left, Daniel Dae Kim, David Harbour and Sasha Lane in a scene from "Hellboy."

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<p>CHRISSY METZ TOPHER GRACE</p> <p>BREAKTHROUGH</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-FRI 5:50 8:30 SAT-SUN 3:10 5:50 8:30</p>	<p>JASON CLARKE AMY SEIMETZ</p> <p>PET SEMATARY</p> <p>MON-THU & SUN 3:50 8:40 FRI-SAT 3:50 8:40 10:55</p>
<p>ZACHARY LEVI MICHELLE BORTH</p> <p>SHAZAM!</p> <p>MON-THU 5:40 8:30 FRI 5:40 8:30 11:20 SAT 2:50 5:40 8:30 11:20 SUN 2:50 5:40 8:30</p>	<p>BRIE LARSON SAMUEL L. JACKSON</p> <p>CAPTAIN MARVEL</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-FRI 3:50 6:35 SAT & SUN 1:05 3:50 6:35</p>
<p>DEV PATEL ARMIE HAMMER</p> <p>HOTEL MUMBAI</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-SUN 9:15</p>	

OPENING APRIL 18: THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA, JOSH WICK CHAPTER 3: PARABELLUM, SOLTERAS INDISPONIBLES

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13 rating. Now we've got an edgier, R-rated brightly red hero in a film that can best be described as tedious. This "Hellboy" stars the always likeable David Harbour of "Stranger Things" in a film even his charm can't save. It's really series of violent vignettes strung together, getting more and more outlandish and introducing characters at such a blistering pace that you just want it to stop already. Casual fans or the uninitiated are in trouble right from the beginning. Andrew Cosby's screenplay doesn't unspool a coherent story so much as violently shoehorn in diverse elements from the comics, overstuffing ev-

ery scene and only then trying to explain why it's been included. Director Neil Marshall leaves anyone not familiar with this world grasping and gasping. Scenes seem to just end abruptly, as if Marshall was the one trapped in story panels. A fight sequence with three giants is really the only astonishingly realized bit in the whole film. (It looks like a different set of filmmakers made it). What you need to know is that Hellboy is a devil who ends up working for the good guys, the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense. (These civil servants aren't too good at their job, by the way: They

find out that one of their enemies is causing chaos on the streets outside — from watching Sky News.) Hellboy is basically a monster who hunts monsters, rejecting his DNA by cutting off his horns and stalking around in a ratty raincoat with no shirt. He deals with sorcery and ancient curses, utters strip club jokes, hears standard comic book lines — "Revenge is the only sustenance I require" — and has a hand in gore, beheadings, eyes gouged out and deep ugliness. The movie starts in 517 AD, then goes to modern-day Mexico, Colorado, London, the English countryside and Siberia. □

Donald Glover, Rihanna film 'Guava' to hit Amazon Saturday

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Donald Glover and Rihanna's secretive new film "Guava Island" is coming to Amazon Prime Video this weekend.

Glover tweeted Wednesday that it'd be available to stream for free starting Saturday at 12:01 a.m. Ac-

cording to Vanity Fair, it will be available to watch for free for 18 hours.

The film is described as a tropical thriller about a local musician who wants to throw a festival. It was shot on location in Cuba and "Black Panther" breakout Letitia Wright co-stars.

Glover's frequent collabo-

rator Hiro Murai, who has directed several episodes of "Atlanta" and the acclaimed "This Is America" music video, directed "Guava Island."

The actor-singer also tweeted the film will be shown at the Coachella following his performance Friday at the music festival. □

Fans arrive for rapper Nipsey Hussle's Los Angeles memorial

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fans poured into the Staples Center on Thursday to pay tribute to Nipsey Hussle, the rapper and community activist slain last month in front of a store that he tried to use to empower his South Central neighborhood. Most who filed in for the public memorial were young adults but ages ranged from small children to the elderly.

"We're not just here to get off work, we're not just here to take selfies outside Staples, we can do that anytime," said Wutup Levy, 27, of Long Beach, California, as he looked for a friend who had a ticket for him. "We're here for a great man. We're all here for big Nip. It wasn't his time."

The Nipsey Hussle's Celebration of Life ceremony was set to begin at 10 a.m. PDT, but was delayed. Around the time it was to start, about half of the Staples Center was full and fans were still waiting to get inside.

Daren B. Harris waited outside the arena before the doors opened with his grandmother and other family members, who wore black T-shirts with Hussle's face on them. Harris said he grew up listening the rapper's music and followed



This March 29, 2018 file photo shows rapper Nipsey Hussle at an NBA basketball game between the Golden State Warriors and the Milwaukee Bucks in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

his journey to improve his community.

"This is a once in a lifetime thing," said Harris, 23, who lives in South Los Angeles. "Everything that happened is so impromptu. We are all taking it in all at once. He was a treasure."

Harris' grandmother, Reba Johnson, said she couldn't miss the occasion to celebrate Hussle's life.

"He was bigger than his music" she said.

More than 20,000 people are expected to attend

the service, with thousands more paying their respects to the late rapper during a 25-mile procession through the city.

Books with an image of Hussle on the cover were handed out to service attendees. The book of nearly 100 pages contained numerous photos of Hussle with his fiancée Lauren London, his children, and friends like Russell Westbrook and Snoop Dogg. It also had heartfelt messages from Rick Ross, The

Game and LeBron James.

"I've never cried myself to sleep over any public figure before, but Nipsey's presence meant so much for our community," actress Issa Rae said in her message inside the book.

No details were released about dignitaries and celebrities who will attend, perform or speak at the memorial. The event will be livestreamed on BET and BET News' Facebook page. The hearse carrying Hussle's coffin from the Staples Cen-

ter will then travel past the property where Hussle had planned to turn an aging strip mall into new businesses and affordable homes. Finally, it will arrive at a funeral home in the city's hard-scrabble Crenshaw district, where the rapper was born on Aug. 15, 1985. Hussle was shot to death March 31 while standing outside The Marathon, his South Los Angeles clothing store, not far from where the rapper grew up. The store will be one of the places where Hussle's casket passes during the procession through South Los Angeles.

Eric R. Holder Jr., who has been charged with killing Hussle, has pleaded not guilty. Police have said Holder and Hussle had several interactions the day of the shooting and have described it as being the result of a personal dispute.

The 33-year-old Grammy-nominated rapper, whose real name was Ermias Asghedom, was an Eritrean-American father of two who was engaged to actress Lauren London. He was a beloved figure for his philanthropic work that went well beyond the usual celebrity "giving back" ethos. Following his death, political and community leaders were as quick and effusive in their praise as his fellow hip-hop artists. □

'The Eighth Sister' is a gripping thriller

By JEFF AYERS
Associated Press

"The Eighth Sister" by Robert Dugoni (Thomas and Mercer).

Charles Jenkins has left his time in the CIA far behind and now lives with his fam-

ily on a farm on a remote island in Washington state. His wife is expecting their second child, and he runs a security consulting business to pay the bills. When financial issues force him to contemplate how to pay his employees while at the same time keeping his wife as stress-free as possible due to pregnancy complications, Jenkins receives an offer he should refuse. His former boss arrives at the farm and asks him to travel undercover to Moscow to find a Russian operative targeting agents from the United States that were part of an operation known

as the "Seven Sisters." The hope is that when Jenkins arrives in Russia and starts to ask questions, the elusive agent known as the Eighth Sister will make her presence known. Jenkins desperately needs the money, so he reluctantly agrees to the mission.

The initial routine assignment soon turns deadly when Jenkins stumbles upon a buried secret, and with that comes the wrath of a Russian intelligence officer. He wants Jenkins eliminated, and like Javert in "Les Misérables," will not give up under any circumstances. Now it becomes a

race as Jenkins tries to escape foreign territory while the climate favors an angry Russian official who wants his brand of justice.

Robert Dugoni has crafted a thriller with "The Eighth Sister" that echoes the best of classic Russian literature with a hint of John LeCarre added to the mix. When the storyline veers into predictability, the narrative takes a drastic turn and becomes a legal drama that will remind readers of Scott Turow's best. This novel is destined to be a classic in the genre, and Dugoni is arguably one of the best writers in the field right now. □



This cover image released by Thomas and Mercer shows "The Eighth Sister," by Robert Dugoni.

Associated Press



Bathe naked with strangers? Welcome to a Japanese bathhouse

By LINDA LOMBARDI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan is proud of its bathing traditions. For many Westerners, though, the fact that these traditions involve being naked with strangers is awkward at best, even though men and women bathe separately.

On my first trip I tried to wriggle out of a friend's offer to take me to an onsen, or hot springs resort. I suggested a different town that had an attraction I wanted to see, and thought I was off the hook.

I should have done my research better: That town was famous for its onsen as well.

It turned out for the best, though, because I've become a fan. Nothing is more relaxing after a tiring day of sightseeing than a long soak, and you can reassure yourself that you're experiencing authentic culture at the same time.

Two terms are basic when talking about Japanese baths: onsen and sento. An onsen has natural hot spring water. A sento, usually translated as public bath, typically uses regular water, traditionally heated by burning wood. Tall chimneys for the smoke are one visual symbol of the city sento.

The distinction is noted because various spring waters are supposed to have different health benefits. Onsen are commonly found at hotels and resorts outside the city, but there are about 45 sento in Tokyo, for example, that do have



This undated photo provided by Stéphanie Crohin shows traditional baths and murals in Kasuga onsen, or hot spring bath, in Matsuzaka, Mie prefecture, Japan.

Associated Press

natural spring water.

For the outsider, though, the facilities will look much the same and more important, so are the traditions and etiquette.

Stephanie Crohin is author of a book in Japanese about sento. For the past three years, she has been the official volunteer ambassador for the Tokyo Sento Association. She has visited over 700 sento across Japan and her book and Instagram feed reveal the beauty of their interiors, where photography is usually prohibited, including many traditional painted murals and immaculate tilework.

She reassures first-timers that with everyone else

acting like it's normal, you will quickly get comfortable. "For some people it is a big challenge to be naked in front of others, but genders are separate, and everybody just doesn't look and doesn't care," she says. "It is the ideal place to forget about complexes!"

Although you won't have much trouble finding a sento in a city like Tokyo, their numbers are in fact declining. Last year, she says, 40 sento closed in Tokyo. Fifty years ago, there were around 2,700 sento in the city, but now there are around 560, with 2,500 across the country.

One reason sento are closing is that many of their customers are elderly. Now that every home has its own bath, younger people often never cultivated the habit. Some sento are trying new strategies to attract customers, including presenting exhibits and events such as concerts and developing English information to attract tourists. Another innovation: "super sento," more like day spas with additional facilities and entertainment. One in Tokyo, Oedo Onsen Monogatari, is basically a hot bath theme park with a recreated Edo period townscape.

These may be an easy way in for the first-timer, but if you want to experience authentic local culture, make sure you try a sento too. Just follow the rules so you'll fit in. At a typical bath here's the routine:

—Leave your shoes in an outside locker.

—Pay the fee. If you haven't brought your own soap and shampoo, you can buy small bottles and rent towels. You'll be given one large towel and a small one.

—Go through the entrance for your gender. (You might want to memorize the characters for "man" and "woman" in advance.)

—In the changing room, undress and put your

clothes in a locker. This part should feel familiar to anyone who's been to a gym.

—Leave the big towel in the locker but take the small one with you. Use it for washing and/or to dry yourself a bit after your bath so you don't drip onto the changing room floor.

—The bathroom has individual washing stations. The station may already have a stool, or you can take one and a wash basin from a stack. The basin is the traditional way to wash and rinse yourself, but now there are also hand sprayers.

—Wash thoroughly. The bath is just for soaking; since the water there is shared, you're expected to be clean first. Be careful not to splash your neighbors.

—Tie up long hair. You don't want it to dangle into the shared bath.

Now you're ready to soak!

At this point you'll still be carrying your small towel, which brings up another rule: never put your towel into the bath. If you've seen Japanese bathing on TV, people will usually be covered with towels, but that is only for filming. The most traditional thing to do with the small towel is fold it and rest it on your head while you're bathing.

Finally, sento and onsen have traditionally prohibited tattoos, which are associated with organized crime. These restrictions are loosening. Sento are usually fine with them, but super sento and onsen resorts may not be, so check in advance. □



This undated photo provided by Stéphanie Crohin shows bath and mural at Mikoku-yu onsen, or hot spring bath, in Sumida ward, Tokyo, Japan.

Associated Press



This undated photo provided by Stéphanie Crohin shows a changing room in Unsuisen sento, or public bath, in Tokyo, Japan.

Associated Press